

HARVARD THEOLOGICAL STUDIES XXV

AN INVENTORY OF  
THE RECORDS OF THE  
PARTICULAR  
(CONGREGATIONAL)  
CHURCHES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
GATHERED 1620-1805

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CAMBRIDGE

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For Barbara, Susan, Laura, and David.

## INTRODUCTION

As far as can be determined, every particular (congregational) church gathered prior to 1806 within the present-day borders of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is represented in the following inventory. Churches which were only briefly congregational and which later affiliated with another tradition (such as the Baptist), as well as churches which had their origins in non-congregational traditions (such as the Presbyterian) and later became congregational, are included. Given in alphabetical sequence are, as well, the variant names of all of these churches and their related precincts, towns, parishes and societies: e.g., the church in Dalton, originally having been known as the church in Ashuelot or Ashuelot Equivalent, those latter names are listed with cross-reference to the Dalton entry.<sup>1</sup>

The following reference works have been employed in

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<sup>1</sup>Only those variant names actually encountered by the author are entered here: e.g., the church in Blackstone is duly listed, together with the earlier variant, "Mendon, South Church and Precinct." However, no entry is made under the logically possible variant, "South Mendon, Church and Precinct," because no reference to a "South Mendon" was met in the course of these studies.



compiling the list of churches: the following items published in American Quarterly Register, covering all Massachusetts Counties with the exceptions of Barnstable, Bristol, Duke's, and Nantucket Counties: "Complete List of the Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers in Massachusetts," County of Suffolk by B. B. Edwards, Berkshire County by David D. Field, AQR, VII (1834-1835), 28-38; Joseph B. Felt, "A List of the Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers, who have been Settled in the County of Essex, Mass.," AQR, VII (1834-1835), 246-261; Thomas Noyes, "Complete List of the Congregational Ministers, in the County of Norfolk, Mass.," AQR, VIII (1835-1836), 42-58; Thomas Noyes, "Complete List of the Congregational Ministers, in the County of Plymouth, Mass.," AQR, VIII (1835-1836), 144-159; Thomas Noyes, "Complete List of the Congregational Ministers, in the County of Worcester, Mass.," AQR, X (1837-1838), 47-62, 126-145; B. B. Edwards, "Complete List of the Congregational Ministers in the Old County of Hampshire, Ms. (including the Present Counties of Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden)," AQR, X (1837-1838), 260-276, 379-407; Samuel Sewall, "A Brief Survey of the Congregational Churches and Ministers in the County of Middlesex, and in Chelsea in the County of Suffolk, Ms.," AQR, XI (1838-1839), 45-55, 174-197, 248-279, 376-402; XIII (1840), 37-57.

Joseph S. Clark. A Historical Sketch of the Congregational Churches in Massachusetts, from 1620 to 1858. With an Appendix. Boston, 1858.

[Robert T. Swan.] "Tenth Report on the Custody and Conditions of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties" (Public Document No. 52) subtitled "Churches, Parishes, Precincts, and Religious Societies, Past and Present, in Massachusetts," in Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897, II. Boston, 1898.

S. Leroy Blake. The Separates or Strict Congregationalists of New England. Boston & Chicago, 1902.

[Robert T. Swan.] "Fifteenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns and Counties" (Public Document No. 52) in Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1902, II. Boston, 1903.

Frederick L. Weis. The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England. Lancaster, Mass., 1936.

Frederick L. Weis, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, XXXVIII (1947-1951), 134-218.



Richard L. Bowen. Massachusetts Records: A Handbook for Genealogists, Historians, Lawyers, and other Researchers. Rehoboth, 1957.

C. C. Goen. Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800: Strict Congregationalists and Separate Baptists in the Great Awakening. New Haven & London, 1962.

The annually printed Yearbooks of the Congregational Christian Churches (United Church of Christ) and of the Massachusetts Conference of Congregational Christian Churches and Ministers.

The annually printed Directories of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

It has not been practicable to report in full the data given on each church by any or all of these authorities. Instead, the information has been epitomized, and only such errors remarked as might seriously affect the work of researchers using this inventory as a bibliographical tool.

The exact date of the gathering of each church has been verified as carefully as possible.<sup>1</sup> In some instances, two

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<sup>1</sup>Even if it might encourage some churches to reconsider the dates on which they are to celebrate their periodic anniversaries, it has been the unvarying practice in this inventory to consider the formal act of entering into church covenant as the date on which a given church was born. Local secular and church historians have a penchant for "dating" a particular church from the first action taken by a town to provide religious services for the inhabitants, or from the day of the first sermon preached in that locality.

Denominational yearbooks, furthermore, uncritically publish what the churches report, leaving the accuracy of dates open to the vagaries of local antiquarians, to the confusion of precinct/parish events with those of the church, and to the perpetuation of typographical errors. E.g., the church in West Barnstable dates itself 1616, claiming identity with Henry Jacob's church formed in that year at Southwark, England; the Second Church of Beverly dates itself 1713, from the incorporation of its related precinct, rather than from 1715, when the actual covenanting took place; the



churches in the same community claim the same date of organization, thereby constituting a doublet. Since the inventory's terminus ad quem falls prior to the Congregational-Unitarian separation of the early nineteenth century, the procedure has been to make primary reference to the church holding the records, mentioning any rival claimant only marginally; e.g., the primary reference regarding Scituate is made to The First Parish Unitarian Church of that town, while only passing mention is made of The Congregational Church of Scituate, which also claims the original founding date of 1634/35.

Capsule histories of the churches are not intended, and only such brief notes are given as will provide a swift identification or clarify a complicated line of local development.<sup>1</sup> With regard to the lists of clergymen who served these churches, the writer must acknowledge a large debt to Frederick L. Weis' The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936). Whatever corrections of Weis' work were called for, have usually been

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UUA Directory has for several years reported the Ashby church as gathered in 1767, perpetuating the transposition of numerals that obscures the actual date of the church's gathering, 1776.

<sup>1</sup>Data on institutional developments since 1900 (e.g., the date of a church's incorporation) has not always been available. Frequently, such information is contained in record books currently in use and therefore not consulted by the present writer.



made without special comment.<sup>1</sup> In some instances, the listings of ruling elders and deacons are incomplete, due to the absence or fragmentary nature of the church's records.<sup>2</sup> Innumerable gaps in such listings could be filled by consulting town, parish and cemetery records, together with the historical and genealogical studies published in profusion by towns, societies and families; this task, however, belongs more properly to the local antiquarian and the genealogist.

The abbreviations employed in listings of clerical and lay personnel are:

b.	= born
ca.	= <u>circa</u>
cta.	= ceased to act
d.	= died
dism.	= dismissed from office
e.	= elected to office
elev.	= elevated
inst.	= installed in office
m.	= mentioned
ord.	= ordained to office
rem.	= removed from town
res.	= resigned office
sett.	= settled

Three pioneer attempts at inventorying the existence

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<sup>1</sup>Supplementary sources of information used occasionally in preparing the inventory were the Emerson Davis typescript "Biographical Sketches of the Congregational Pastors of New England; arranged alphabetically according to churches," owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston; Harvard Graduates (ed. by J. L. Sibley), Vols. I-III (continued by Clifford K. Shipton, through Vol. XIII) (Cambridge and Boston, 1873-1965).

<sup>2</sup>Few volumes of church records contain reliable bills of mortality.



and condition of the original records of the churches have been consulted in the preparation of this inventory:

Carroll D. Wright. Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties. Boston, 1889.<sup>1</sup>

Frederick L. Weis, Christopher R. Eliot, and Robert D. Richardson. "Early Records of the [forty-five] Seventeenth Century Churches in Massachusetts Which Became Unitarian," Proceedings of the Unitarian Historical Society, VII, ii (1941), 11-22.

Emil Oberholzer, Jr. Delinquent Saints: Disciplinary Action in the Early Congregational Churches of Massachusetts. New York, 1956. Pp. 337-355.

The original goal of this inventory, that of noting all books of records opened before 1900, has not always proven possible to achieve.<sup>2</sup>

Where a church has arranged for the storage of its records by an historical society or public library, this is noted for the convenience of researchers who must

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<sup>1</sup>Wright's Report as Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Records relied solely on data supplied by local correspondents. The latter, at best having personal acquaintance with the records of two or three communities, lacked any adequate standards by which to justify reporting (as they did) whether the records in their keeping provided good, poor or average coverage. The published Report, never reliable, has been rendered virtually useless by the ensuing passage of three-quarters of a century.

<sup>2</sup>To avoid antagonizing church personnel made uneasy by recent denominational mergers, the promise was initially given that examination of record books currently in use would not be requested. Later, it was discovered that in some instances, books designated "current" by their owners were begun about the time of the Civil War. A few churches were so hesitant about making their records available that it was deemed fruitless to press the matter beyond what is reported here.



nevertheless assume that permission from the owner church is prerequisite to being granted access to the records by their custodians.<sup>1</sup> In the case of extinct churches, the officers of the repository holding such a church's records determine under what conditions the records may be consulted, although being "public documents" by law they are accessible to any applicant.

Turning to the documents themselves, the first major concern has been to locate and describe the running records of the church, containing the votes and other business transactions of the church qua ecclesiastical entity. Such running records are designated "CR," followed by an appropriate Roman numeral to indicate its place in the chronological sequence of record books belonging to a given church. Where a book contains only vital statistics (and may be a later extract or copy of original records), it is designated "VS." Records of church officers (e.g., deacons' sacramental accounts) and church committees are listed in abbreviated form under the rubric, "miscellaneous records."

The second major concern, where the church holds the

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<sup>1</sup>Special problems arise where churches have stored their records in the vaults of local banks, e.g., restricted hours for consulting the records, limited working space, the bank's requiring that church personnel supervise the examination, etc. Such unusual storage arrangements are noted in the inventory, but out of courtesy to the business institutions involved, it has been left for the owner church to disclose the identity of the custodian.



records of its now-extinct prudential organization,<sup>1</sup> has been to locate and describe the running records of such prudential bodies. These running records are designated "PR" (precinct or parish records), "SR" (society records), "PROP" (proprietors records), "PEW" (pewholders records) and "MF" (ministerial fund records), followed by the appropriate numeral.<sup>2</sup> Records of the officers (e.g., assessors, collectors, treasurers) and committees of these prudential bodies are listed in abbreviated form. No attempt has been made to locate precinct/parish/society records where these

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<sup>1</sup>Obviously, for most towns, the earliest "prudential records," are comprised by the town records where extant. However, although such town records (TR) have been consulted at appropriate points, no systematic survey of such materials has been attempted here, and attention instead has been given to those bodies, - precincts, parishes, and societies, - which took up the "prudential concerns" of religious life once the town laid them down.

Only a handful of Massachusetts churches today maintain the old dual system of "church and parish," the vast majority having chosen instead to incorporate the church so that it may legally transact prudential business.

<sup>2</sup>While there are important differences among "precincts," "parishes," and "societies," there is a regular chronological sequence with regard to these designations. A portion of an already-existing town is set off as a "precinct," usually enabling the latter to support a gathered church of its own. In time, the "precinct" becomes a "town," and the "town" handles the church's prudential affairs until (soon or late) it decides to create a "parish" to attend specifically to such matters. After disestablishment in 1833, the "parish" frequently continued under that title (although losing its distinctive characteristics as a "poll parish") or sometimes was restructured as a "society," while new prudential organizations formed after 1833 were uniformly designated as "societies."



have been separated from the church records and retained by the town as part of its records.

Deliberately omitted from this inventory are the surviving records of the educational and fellowship organizations (e.g., Sabbath school, women's society) of these churches, and the abundance of uncalendared loose papers (e.g., warrants, bills, receipts, correspondence, etc.) which many churches have saved as memorabilia.

Manuscript, microfilm and published copies of church running records (or extensive extracts therefrom) have been noted where known to exist. Some special mention should be made of the Cooke Collection of records of Berkshire County (and adjacent New York) churches. These transcripts, made around 1900 by Rollin H. Cooke, have since been typed and bound; the Collection is owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Mass.<sup>1</sup>

As to secondary sources of information, the thoroughness of search in each instance has been inversely proportional to the information readily available about a given church from its own records. Church manuals and histories

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<sup>1</sup>Some microfilming of church, parish and town records was done in recent years by representatives of the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; however, the Society's Library Supervisor states that no listing of records filmed can be furnished. To my knowledge, only two or three churches, whose records were thus filmed, purchased copies of the film for their own archives.



have been an object of special concern, both because of their utility and their ephemeral nature. For anyone needing extensive listings of secondary materials, Charles A. Flagg's A Guide to Massachusetts Local History (Salem, 1907) has not yet outworn its usefulness.

As it is inevitable that errors will be found in this listing and inventory, so it is to be hoped that they will prove to be marginal inaccuracies. More important, researchers working in areas geographically or topically more limited, will occasionally uncover items which escaped my notice--records stored in a seldom-visited corner of a town hall vault, records that lie forgotten in someone's attic. As these fugitive materials are brought to light, the value of this inventory will lie in having encouraged the study and careful preservation of these documentary treasures of the Pilgrim-Puritan churches.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Occasionally the reader will meet with reference in the ensuing pages to a "thesis," to which the inventory itself is described as a bibliographical appendage. The present publication is a photo-offset copy of the original typescript of that inventory, and it was not possible to retype all the pages where reference to the thesis is made.

# ABBREVIATIONS FOR PERIODICALS CITED IN THE INVENTORY

<u>AASP</u>	American Antiquarian Society, <u>Proceedings</u> .
<u>AASTC</u>	American Antiquarian Society, <u>Transactions and Collections</u> .
<u>BHSP</u>	Brookline Historical Society, <u>Publications</u> .
<u>BHSSC</u>	Berkshire Historical and Scientific Society, <u>Collections</u> .
<u>CHSP</u>	Cambridge Historical Society, <u>Proceedings</u> .
<u>CQ</u>	<u>Congregational Quarterly</u> .
<u>CSMP</u>	Colonial Society of Massachusetts, <u>Publications</u> .
<u>DHR</u>	<u>Dedham Historical Register</u> .
<u>DHSHC</u>	Danvers Historical Society, <u>Historical Collections</u> .
<u>EA</u>	<u>Essex Antiquarian</u> .
<u>EIHC</u>	Essex Institute, <u>Historical Collections</u> .
<u>FHSP</u>	Fitchburg Historical Society, <u>Proceedings</u> .
<u>GA</u>	<u>Genealogical Advertiser</u> .
<u>GHS</u>	<u>Groton Historical Series</u> .
<u>HM</u>	<u>Historical Magazine</u> .
<u>MD</u>	<u>Mayflower Descendent</u> .
<u>MHR</u>	<u>Medford Historical Register</u> .
<u>MHSC</u>	Massachusetts Historical Society, <u>Collections</u> .
<u>MHSP</u>	Massachusetts Historical Society, <u>Proceedings</u> .
<u>MHSR</u>	Malden Historical Society, <u>Register</u> .
<u>NEHGR</u>	<u>New England Historical and Genealogical Register</u> .





## ABINGTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 17, 1714. A temporary separation occurred in 1745, but no schismatic church resulted. The First Parish was organized in 1832.

Ministers: Samuel Brown (called 1711; ord. 1714; d. 1749)  
 Ezekiel Dodge (ord. 1750; d. 1770)  
 Samuel Niles (ord. 1771; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Ebenezer Whitmarsh (e. 1714)  
 Joseph Lincoln (e. 1717; ejected from the diaconate 1723)  
 Samuel French (e. 1722; d. 1738 ?)  
 Edward Bates (e. 1727)  
 Joshua Shaw<sup>1</sup> (e. 1735)  
 Samuel Pool (e. 1750)  
 John Noyes (e. 1750)  
 ---- Whitman (m. 1780-1782)  
 Daniel Shaw (e. 1777-1779; m. 1805)  
 Eleazar Williams (e. 1777-1779)  
 Jacob Pool (m. 1804-1805)  
 [Jacob Tirrell (e. before 1820)]<sup>2</sup>  
 [David Torrey (e. before 1820)]<sup>2</sup>

The records are church property, and are deposited with the local historical society, which has headquarters in the town library building.

CR I - "Abington Church Book, 1724 to 1749." Considerable attention paid to disciplinary matters. Pages 17-20 have been removed.

CR II - "The Records of y<sup>e</sup> Chh of Christ in Abington." 1750-1774.

CR III - Church Records, fragmentary, 1779(?) - 1785. Extant pages numbered 280-309.

CR IV - Church Records, fragmentary, 1804-1807.

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1. Wrongly called "Jacob Shaw" in the church's published manuals.

2. Whether elected before or after 1805 is unknown.



CR V - "Records of the first Church of Christ in Abington." 1812-1815, with vital statistics to 1821.

CR VI - "Records of the first Church of Christ in Abington. 1820. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Norton Scribe." 1820-1822.

CR VII - "Records of the First Church of Christ in Abington." 1822-1832.

CR VIII - "Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Church in Abington, 1831.") 1831-1893, with vital statistics to 1898.

CR IX - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Congregational Church, organized 1712, Abington [incorporated Dec. 27,] 1893.") 1893-1912.

PR I - "Parish Records." 1808-1852.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1867-1868; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1808-1877; Parish Treasurer's (and Collector's) Accounts, 1876-1886; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1886-1894.

ACTON, First (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on Nov. 8, 1738. The orthodox withdrew in 1832, and the Unitarian wing continued to hold services of worship until the church of the parish was dissolved in 1850.

Ministers: John Swift (ord. 1738; d. 1775)  
Moses Adams (ord. 1777; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Fletcher	(e. 1738; d. 1746)
	John Heald	(e. 1738; d. 1775)
	Jonathan Hosmer	(m. 1779; d. 1775)
	John Brooks	(m. 1772; d. 1777)
	Capt. Samuel Hayward	(e. 1775; d. 1795)
	Francis Faulkner	(e. 1775; d. 1805)



Joseph Brabook (e. 1775; d. 1812)  
 Simon Hunt (e. 1792; d. 1820)

The records are on deposit with the Town Clerk.

CR I - "Church Records. Rev. John Swift. Rev. Moses Adams. 1738-1818."

Following the notice in this volume of the ordination of the second minister, Moses Adams, the following entry appears: "It is evident that Mr. Swift had little more in view than brief memoranda for his own use. I regret that I did not at the beginning of my ministry procure a larger book & keep a more particular & extensive record. I hope my successor will profit by this hint. M. A." Adams' successor did indeed procure a large book in 1820, but the records are few, continuing only to 1834 when regular preaching ended in the Church of the First Parish.

CR II - "Church Records. Rev. Marshall Shedd. 1820-1834."

PR I - Parish Records, 1826-1860.

PR II - "Records of the First Parish in Action." 1860-1861.

Miscellaneous records: untitled book, containing vital statistics, 1777-1844, copied in part from church records.

ACUSHNET Congregational Church (see New Bedford).

ADAMS, First (C), extinct.

The church, which was originally gathered in 1766, nearly became extinct after Todd's dismissal. It was revived in 1782; however, worship services were held only occasionally. The meetinghouse was rebuilt in 1794, during



the part-time ministry of a Baptist preacher. (Local Baptist church organization dates from 1808.)

Minister: Samuel Todd (inst. 1766; dism. 1778; d. 1789)

As early as 1829, it was reported that no records of Todd's church were extant. See A History of the County of Berkshire, Massachusetts; in Two Parts (Pittsfield, Mass., 1829), pp. 422-442.

#### AGAWAM, Feeding Hills, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 10, 1762 as the Sixth Church of Christ in Springfield. When the area became a town in 1774, the church took the appropriate name of the Second Church in West Springfield.

1800 saw the Second Parish divided into Feeding Hills and Agawam, and 1808 the name of the one church changed to the Church in the Fourth Parish of West Springfield. In 1819, an independent church was gathered in Agawam, the original church being situated at Feeding Hills; however, by 1831, the two churches were being served by a single minister, and reunification followed shortly after. Agawam became a town in 1855, and the church took the title of the First Church in Agawam.

Minister: Sylvanus Griswold (ord. 1762; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Leonard (e. 1762)  
Reuben Leonard (e. 1762)  
Joseph Bodurtha (e. 1791)

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1762-1819.

CR I COPY I - Rollin H. Cooke, "Feeding Hills, Town of Agawam, Mass. Church Records." Copy made in 1899 of church covenant, diaconal elections, vital statistics, 1762-1819. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR I COPY II - "Feeding Hills Church Records. A Book Borrowed of Mrs. Mary (Flower) Bristoll of Feeding Hills, Mass., July 24, 1914. Copied by Mrs. Harriet E. Bagg



Loomis and given to the City Library, Springfield, Mass. The following pages were copied from the copy by Ella May Lewis (Mrs. Seth Ames Lewis) Springfield, Mass. 1938." Congregational Library, Boston.

CR II - "Records, Congregational Church Book, Feeding Hills, Mass." Vital statistics (chiefly admissions), 1826-1935; church records, 1885-1933.

PR/SR I - Parish/Society Records, 1836-1857.

SR II - "Society Book of Records, Feeding Hills, Jany. 1857." 1857-1952.

ALFORD (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1779, but after Avery's dismissal, declined sharply in membership. In 1817 the surviving Congregationalists arranged with local Baptists and Methodists jointly to build and support a "Union Meeting-house," which the Congregational body might use a quarter of the time. By 1846, this Congregational body must have been considered extinct, since in that year a new Congregational church was gathered in Alford.

Minister: Joseph Avery (ord. 1779; dism. 1787; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Eleazar Barrett (m. 1779; d. 1823)  
Robert Johnson (m. 1779)

No records of this church are known to exist. See A History of the County of Berkshire, Massachusetts; in Two Parts (Pittsfield, Mass., 1829), pp. 235-238.

ALMSBURY (see Amesbury).



AMESBURY, First (Sandy Hill) (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1668 or more probably, in 1672, and was variously known as the First Church and the Sandy Hill Church and latterly as the Church in the East Precinct (or East Parish) in Amesbury. In 1835, Benjamin Sawyer, the minister of the Rocky Hill Church (see below), accepted an invitation to serve both churches. With this arrangement in mind, the East or Sandy Hill Parish was dissolved that same year. However, by 1841 regular preaching was discontinued at Sandy Hill, and by 1847 even occasional services were ended and the church itself was extinct.

Ministers:	Thomas Wells	(ord. 1672; may not have been sett. permanently until 1692; d. 1734)
	Edmund March	(ord. 1728; sett. 1722 or 1728; dism. 1743; d. 1791)
	Elisha Odlin	(ord. 1743/44; sett. 1742 or 1744; d. 1752)
	Thomas Hibbert <sup>1</sup>	(ord. 1754; dism. 1781 or 1785; became Presbyterian; d. 1793)
	Benjamin Bell	(ord. 1784; dism. 1790; d. 1836)
	Stephen Hull	(sett. 1799; ord. 1802; dism. 1811)
	[Benjamin Sawyer	(inst. 1816; cta. 1841)]

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Thomas Stevens	(m. 1711; rem. 1761)
	Joseph Brown	(m. 1730/31; d. 1735)
	John Tuxbury	(m. 1730/31-1741)
	Stephen Bartlett	(m. 1730/31-1741; [probably the "Deacon Bartlett" m. 1757])
	Ebenezer Currier	(m. 1730/31-1741)

Hoyt, I, p. 28 (see below, CR II PUB), writing in 1902, remarked that there were no records of this church antedating 1730/31, adding: "The first book of records, covering the period of the first pastorate (1672-1728) . . . was probably destroyed many years since, though it is barely possible that it may yet be found, in the hands of some descendent of Rev. Thomas Wells. It was certainly in existence in 1733, as appears by a reference to it in

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1. Sometimes given as "Hibberd."



the second book of records." (II, p. 476). Earlier, the unnamed compilers of Essex North Association's Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County, Mass. (Boston, 1865), p. 228, had stated: "The church records cannot be found, though supposed to be in existence."

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1672-1728.

CR II - MISSING, "The Second Book of Records for the 1st Church of Christ att Almsbury Bearing Date from the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of January Anno Dom: 1730/31 Containing the Several acts, orders & administrations, of Sd. Church Needfull to Posterity Entered & Registred per me Edmd: March, The 2d: Pastor of Sd. Church. ordained July 3d: 1728. Vid: Page 14. of 1st. Book of Records."

The title is supplied by Hoyt, II, p. 476, who gives the following data on this book of records: "This second book was in the hands of the Kendrick family forty years ago [circa 1860], but now it can not be found. It has been suggested that this book was probably burned in a building at Bartlett's Corner, some years hence. The compiler of this [present] volume used these records in preparing his Hoyt genealogy, and made a copy of some portions of the book, selecting loose and torn leaves and portions which seemed most likely to be destroyed or become illegible, as well as some of the oldest and most important parts. Now that the original has disappeared, it seems important to preserve some of these fragments by printing them in this volume . . . ."

CR II PUB - David W. Hoyt, The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts, With Some Related Families of Adjoining Towns and of York County, Maine. Vol. II (Providence, 1902), pp. 476-498, prints church votes for 1730/31-1736 and 1757, with vital statistics, 1730/31-1781.

VS I PUB - "Amesbury Church Records," EIHC, LXIV (1928), 19-20. Admissions and dismissions, 1730/31-1780, reprinted from CR II PUB.



AMESBURY, "Second" (Rocky Hill) (C), extinct.

This church was gathered on Nov. 19, 1718 as the Second Church in Salisbury, and was also known as the Rocky Hill Church. After Salisbury East and West Parishes were established in 1793, it was known (until 1886) as the Church in the West Parish in Salisbury.

Amesbury's First Church was the Sandy Hill Church of 1668 or 1672 (see above); her Second Church or West Church, dating from 1726, is now the church in Merrimac.

Merrimac became an independent town in 1876, leaving Amesbury with only one ancient church, Sandy Hill, and that only a memory.

In 1886, western Salisbury was ceded to Amesbury, and with it Salisbury's Second or West or Rocky Hill meetinghouse, the church having failed to survive the death of its minister, Benjamin Sawyer, in 1871.<sup>1</sup>

Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 340, erroneously identifies this Second or Rocky Hill Church as the present Congregational church in Merrimac.

Ministers:	Joseph Parsons	(inst. 1718; cta. 1738 or 1739; d. 1739/40)
	Samuel Webster, D.D.	(ord. 1741; d. 1796)
	Andrew Beattie	(ord. 1797; d. 1801)
	William Balch	(ord. 1802; dismiss. 1816; d. 1842)
	Benjamin Sawyer	(inst. 1816; cta. 1841. Last minister)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Page	(e. 1736; m. 1741)
	Judah Hackett	(e. 1736)
	Benjamin True	(e. 1736)
	Jonathan Stevens	(e. 1748)
	Reuben Morrill	(e. 1748)
	Daniel Morrill	(e. 1767)
	John Stevens	(e. 1772)
	Benjamin Osgood	(e. 1772)
	William Hackett	(e. 1797)
	Winthrop Osgood	(e. 1797)
	Edward Dorr	(e. 1797)

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1. The last preaching service of record was held in the Rocky Hill meetinghouse in 1941, and that same year, the building was sold to The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.



CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1718-1799/1801.<sup>1</sup>

CR I PUB - David W. Hoyt, The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts, With Some Related Families of Adjoining Towns and of York County, Maine. Vol. II (Providence, 1902), pp. 418-476, prints only the vital statistics given in CR I, viz., membership, baptisms, marriages, funerals attended.

PT I - "Treasurer's Book." Parish collector's and treasurer's records, West Parish in Salisbury (later Amesbury), 1794-1941. The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston. Excerpted by Nina F. Little, and published under the title, "The Treasurer's Book of the Rocky Hill Church," in the Society's publication, Old Time New England, LVII (1966), 46-48.

The church's covenant was published in the Essex North Association's Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County, Mass. (Boston, 1865), pp. 373-374. See also Charles I. Pettingell, "The West Parish of Salisbury, Massachusetts and the Rocky Hill Meetinghouse," Old Time New England, LVII (1966), 29-45.

AMESBURY, East Church, Precinct and Parish (see Amesbury, First Church, Precinct and Parish).

AMESBURY, Sandy Hill Church and Parish (see Amesbury, First Church).

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1. The Essex Institute copy of Hoyt (see CR I PUB), II, p. 436, contains a pencilled notation stating that in 1912, these records were held by William F. Morrill of Amesbury.

AMESBURY, Second Church (see Merrimac).

AMESBURY, West Precinct and West Parish Congregational Society (see Merrimac).

AMHERST, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 7, 1739 as the Church of Christ in Hadley, East or Third Precinct. In 1759, the precinct became the town of Amherst, and the church's title changed accordingly. The First Parish was organized in 1783, and the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1816.

Ministers:	David Parsons, Jr.	(sett. 1735; ord. 1739; d. 1781)
	David Parsons II, D.D.	(ord. 1782; dism. 1819; d. 1823)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Ebenezer Dickinson	(e. 1739 ?; <sup>m.</sup> 1754) <sup>1</sup>
	John Nash	(e. 1739 ?) <sup>2</sup>

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1. Cited in An Historical Review: One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the First Church of Christ in Amherst, Massachusetts. November 7, 1889 (Amherst, 1890) as a founding member of the church and its first deacon.

2. Named, op. cit., as a founding member of the church.



[Deacon Azariah Dickinson	(adm. 1763)] <sup>1</sup>
[Deacon John Hubbard	(adm. 1763)] <sup>1</sup>
Jonathan Edwards	(e. between adm. 1755 and m. 1781; res. 1785)
Simeon Clark	(e. between adm. 1754 and m. 1781; d. 1801)
Eleazar Smith	(m. 1781; d. 1816)
Dr. Seth Coleman	(e. 1785; d. 1816)
Elisha Smith	(e. 1785; dism. 1821)

The records are church property and, unless otherwise noted, are deposited in the town library.

CR I - "A Book of Chh Records Brought by The Chh in Hadley 3d Precinct - July 1741 Price 20s." Church records, 1735-1820 (spotty to 1781).

CR II - Church Records, 1820-1855.<sup>2</sup>

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1855-1891.

CR IV - "Register of The First Congregational Church, Amherst, Mass. 1891 to Dec. 1938." Church register and records, 1891-1938. At the church.

PR I - "Amherst First Parish Book of Records Begun Decemr 10th 1783." 1783-1840 (including Parish Treasurer's Accounts to 1839).

PR II - "Parish Records No. 2 - Amherst." 1840-1881.

PR III - "Parish Records No. 3 - Amherst First Parish." 1881-1905 (when the parish was dissolved and the church incorporated).

1. Dickinson was admitted by transfer from the church in "Rhoad Town" (Shutesbury); unfortunately, there are no records of that church which antedate 1806. Hubbard was similarly admitted from the church in "Ellington, Windsor." Records are silent, but both probably served as deacons at Amherst.

2. The New England Historic Genealogical Society owns a printed item, origin unknown, which lists baptisms for the First Church, 1739-1844.

Miscellaneous records: two books of records, 1870-1874, one of the Subscribers to the Parish Fund, the other of Subscribers toward the building of the Stone Meeting House.

# AMHERST, Second (C).

On Oct. 15, 1782 certain members of the First Church, opposing the recent settlement of David Parsons II as minister of the First Church, met and covenanted to separate from that body. The Second Church was duly organized on Nov. 12, 1782; the Second Parish in Amherst was incorporated in 1783.

Minister: Ichabod Draper (ord. 1786; dism. 1809; d. 1827)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Hezekiah Belden <sup>1</sup>	(m. 1786; d. 1813)
	John Billings	(m. 1786; d. 1813)
	Medad Dickinson	(adm. 1786; rem. to First Church, Amherst)
	[Nathan Franklin	(adm. 1800; dism.; d. 1832)] <sup>2</sup>
	[Elijah Eastman	(adm. 1803; d. 1820)] <sup>2</sup>

The records are church property and, unless otherwise noted, are deposited in the town library.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1782-1816.<sup>3</sup>

CR II - "A Book containing the Records of the 2d Church of Christ in Amherst (Mass)." 1816-1845.

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1. Sometimes given as "Belding."

2. Date of election to the diaconate unknown.

3. The New England Historic Genealogical Society owns a printed item, origin unknown, which lists baptisms for the Second Church, 1784-1844.



CR III - "A Book, containing the Records of the 2nd Church of Christ in Amherst (Mass)." 1842-1893.

CR IV - "The Records of the 2nd Cong. Church Organized 1782 in Amherst Mass. Beginning March 21st 1893." 1893-1953. At the church.

PR I - Parish Records, 1793-1821.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1821-1852.

PR III - "Book No 3 belonging to the 2nd Parish of Amherst, Cost \$1." Parish records, 1852-1873.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1823-1877; collection of calendared loose papers, some of which deal with the church's formation in 1782.

#### ANDOVER, South (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 17, 1711. The South Precinct in Andover had been incorporated in 1708, and had become the South Parish in 1709. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1810.

Ministers: Samuel Phillips (ord. 1711; d. 1771)  
Jonathan French (ord. 1772; d. 1809)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Abbot	(e. 1711; res. 1720; d. 1721)
	William Lovejoy	(e. 1711; res. 1720; d. 1748)
	Nehemiah Abbot	(e. 1720; d. 1750)
	John Abbot, Jr.	(e. 1720; d. 1754)
	Isaac Abbot	(e. 1744; d. 1784)
	Joseph Abbot, Jr.	(e. 1744; res. 1776; d. 1787)
	John Dane, Jr.	(e. 1755; res. 1794; d. 1801)
	Hezekiah Ballard	(e. 1755; res. 1794; d. 1801)
	Joshua Holt	(e. 1766; d. 1810)
	Zebadiah Abbot	(e. 1785; d. 1793)
	Daniel Poor	(e. 1794; res. 1813; d. 1814)

Isaac Abbot	(e. 1794; res. 1825; d. 1836)
Nathan Abbot	(e. 1794; d. 1801)
Abiel Pearson	(e. 1801; d. 1827)

The records are church property, and are deposited in a local bank.

CR I - "A Book bought by the Chh in the South part of Andover for their use. 1711"-1772. Considerable attention paid to disciplinary matters.

CR I PUB - "Andover Church Records," EIHC, LVIII (1922), 225-233. Admissions and dismissions only, 1711-1798.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1772-1884.

CR III - Church Records, 1884-1925.

PR I - Precinct/Parish Records, 1708-1847.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1709-1749; Parish Collector's Accounts, scattered years in the nineteenth century; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1711-1732, 1763-1879; Pew Rent Records, 1860-1874.

ANDOVER, First Church (see North Andover).

ANDOVER, North Precinct, Parish, Society and Church (see North Andover).

ANNISQUAM (see Gloucester, Annisquam).



## ARLINGTON, First Congregational Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Sept. 9, 1739 as the Second Church in Cambridge. Cambridge's Second or North-West Precinct (often called Menotomy Precinct) had been set off in 1732; organization of the Second Parish in Cambridge came at a somewhat later date.

In 1807, with the precinct's incorporation as a town, the title was appropriately changed to the First Congregational (Church and) Parish of West Cambridge. The change of the town's name in 1867 accounts for the present title of the First Congregational (Church and) Parish of Arlington.

Ministers: Samuel Cooke (ord. 1739; d. 1783)  
Thaddeus Fiske (ord. 1788; res. 1828; d. 1855)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Cutter (e. 1739; d. by 1759)  
John Winship (e. 1739; d. by 1759)  
Thomas Hall (e. 1759; d. 1794)  
Joseph Adams, Jr. (e. 1759; d. 1794)  
Ephraim Frost, Jr. (e. 1792; m. 1805)  
John Adams (e. 1792; d. 1819)

The records are owned and, unless otherwise noted, held by the church.

CR I - "Records: Second Precinct [sic] in Cambridge, now First Parish [sic] in Arlington, 1739-1850." Despite the title, these are church records. Deposited in a local bank. Complete photocopy at the church.

CR II - "Records: From Nov. 1st, 1848: First Congregational Church, West Cambridge." 1848-1927.

PR I - Precinct/Parish Records, 1733-1768.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1768-1838.<sup>1</sup>

PR III - "Letters." Parish records, 1838-1871.

PR IV - "Records, 1st Cong'l Parish, Arlington." 1872-1901.

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1. Inasmuch as the long-lost first book of parish records (PR I) was rediscovered only recently, there is some hope that the missing volume (PR II) may also come to light in the near future.



## ASHBURNHAM, Federated (C).

The church was gathered on April 23, 1760 in the area then known as "Dorchester Canada," incorporated in 1765 as the town of Ashburnham. When other denominations organized local churches, this church took the title of the First Congregational Church. The First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1824. The federation with local Methodists is of recent date.

Ministers: Jonathan Winchester (ord. 1760; d. 1767)  
 John Cushing, D.D. (ord. 1768; d. 1823)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Moses Foster	(e. 1760; res. and rem. 1769; d. 1785)
	Samuel Fellows	(e. 1760; res. and rem. to Shelburne 1772)
	Tristram Cheney	(e. 1769; res. and rem. 1773)
	John Willard	(e. 1772; res. and rem. 1788; d. 1793)
	Samuel Wilder	(e. 1773; d. 1798)
	Peter Stone	(e. 1788; res. and rem. to Townsend 1799)
	Jacob Harris	(e. 1788; d. in N.H. 1826)
	Elisha White	(e. 1798; d. 1814)
	Sherebiah Hunt	(e. 1798; d. 1826)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1767-1822. First twelve pages missing.

CR II - Church Records, 1824-1840.

CR III - Church Records, 1840-1854.

CR IV - MISSING, Church Records, 1854-1895.

VS IV - Vital Statistics: baptisms and admissions only, 1864-1876.

VS V - Vital Statistics, 1882ff.

CR V - Church Records, 1895-1922.

PR I - Parish Records, 1824-1854.

PR II - Parish Records, 1854-1899.



PR II COPY (partial) - Parish Records, 1886-1890.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1882ff.; Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1841-1859; two volumes of Pew Deeds, 1834ff., 1869ff.

ASHBY, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on June 12, 1776, informal organization dating from the incorporation of the town in 1767. The title of First Parish dates from reorganization prompted by the withdrawal of the orthodox to form their own church and parish in 1818.

Ministers:	Samuel Whitman	(ord. 1778; disp. 1787; d. 1827) <sup>1</sup>
	Cornelius Waters	(inst. 1797; disp. 1816; d. 1824)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Isaac Gregory	(e. 1778; res. 1815)
	John Lawrence	(e. 1778; res. 1815)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1776-1888.

VS I - "Record of Marriages." 1863-present.

CR II - Parish/Church Records, 1888-1917, with vital statistics, 1881-1960.

PR I - Parish Records, 1841-1906.

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1. Rev. Abraham Fowler, dismissed in 1777, was probably only a supply minister.

## ASHFIELD, First Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered on Feb. 22, 1763 as the Church of Christ in Huntstown.<sup>1</sup> With the incorporation of the town, it took the title of the Church of Christ in Ashfield.

Ministers: Jacob Sherwin (ord. 1763; dism. 1774;  
d. 1803)  
Nehemiah Porter (inst. 1774; d. 1820)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Ebenezer Belding (e. 1763; cta. 1766)  
Joshua Sherwin (e. 1767; cta. 1771)  
Jonathan Taylor (e. 1768; cta. 1774)  
John Bement (e. 1768; cta. 1805)  
John Porter (e. 1781; res. 1805;  
rem. 1811)  
Enos Smith (e. 1805; cta. 1821; rem. to  
Granby 1823)  
Elijah Paine (e. 1805; cta. 1846)

When inventoried, the starred items (\*) were held by an elderly patient in a local nursing home. Other records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1810-1832. Vital statistics cover 1763-1832, but pp. 1-22 of the book are missing as well as the corresponding twenty-two pages at the end of the book.\*

VS I&II - Minister's Records, with marriage records 1808-1863, and deaths 1808-1839, together with Grammar School records for the years 1816-1817.\* Some further information is provided by the records of the short-lived (1855-1868) Second Congregational Church of Ashfield, this book being in the possession of the present church.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1832-1867.

CR III - "Record: Congregational Church: Ashfield."  
1867-present.

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1. Inasmuch as the first church organized in the area was Baptist, some authorities list this as the Second Church, Congregational. See Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 167 and 239.



PR I - "Parish Records. No. 1." 1820-1871.

SR II - "Records: Ashfield Cong'l Society." 1867-1897  
(when the society was dissolved).

ASHUELOT or Ashuelot Equivalent (see Dalton).

ASSAWOMPSETT (Assawampsett) Indian Congregational Church  
(see Lakeville, Assawompsett Indian Congregational Church).

ATHOL, First Church (U).

The church was gathered on Aug. 29, 1750 as the Church of Christ in Perqueage or Pequoiag, the name changing when the area was incorporated as the town of Athol in 1762. On May 25, 1851, it took the name of the First Congregational Unitarian Church of Athol. The First Congregational Society was organized in 1830, the name being changed to the First Congregational Unitarian Society of Athol in 1881.

Ministers: James Humphrey (ord. 1750; dism. 1782;  
d. 1796)  
Joseph Estabrook (ord. 1787; d. 1830)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: David Twitchell (e. 1754; res. 1774, but active  
to 1782; dism. to New Salem  
1782)  
Aaron Smith (e. 1754; d. 1798)

Jesse Kendall	(e. 1774; d. 1797)
Capt. John Haven	(e. 1774; d. 1807)
William Bigelow	(e. 1795; res. and rem. 1808)
Paul Church	(e. 1795; d. 1826)

The records are church property, and are deposited in a local bank.

CR I - Church Records, 1750-1850. A note on the last page, dated 1787, states that some fifty pages had been cut out of the book when the Rev. Mr. Humphrey turned it over to the church's standing moderator. However, it does not appear<sup>1</sup> that the missing pages contained any church records.

SR I - "Records of the proceedings of the First Congregational Society in the Town of Athol." 1830-1924.

## ATTLEBORO, Second (C).<sup>2</sup>

The church was gathered on Nov. 30, 1748 as the East Church in Attleboro, and was incorporated as the Second Congregational Church on March 1, 1893. It served the East Precinct of Attleboro (incorporated in 1743, when the Second Parish in Attleboro was organized). The Second Congregational Parish in Attleboro or Congregational Society in the Second Precinct of Attleboro was incorporated in 1807. The Proprietors of the Meeting-House were organized in 1824.

Ministers: Peter Thacher<sup>3</sup> (called 1743; ord. 1748; dism. by parish 1784 but continued as minister of the church until d. 1785)

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1. See Samuel F. Clarke, A Centennial Discourse, Delivered September 9, 1850, Before the First Church and Society in Athol (Boston, 1851).

2. The First Church of Attleboro, now the First Church in North Attleboro, dates from 1712.

3. Frequently spelled "Thatcher."



Ebenezer Lazell (ord. 1792; dism. 1797; d. 1828)  
 Nathan Holman (ord. 1800; dism. 1821; d. 1844)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Nathan Wilmarth  
 Obadiah Carpenter  
 Noah Read  
 Thomas French (e. 1764; m. 1792)  
 Ezekiel Kent (e. 1779; res. and rem. to  
 Rehoboth Second Church 1792)  
 David Fisher (e. 1779; m. 1803)  
 Elkanah Wilmarth (e. 1792; d. 1828)  
 Cyril Carpenter (e. 1792; m. 1801)  
 Peter Thacher (e. 1803; m. 1807)  
 Caleb Richardson (e. 1803)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of Second Congregational Church. Attleboro, Mass. 1743-1851." Vital statistics, 1743/1748-1851; memoranda of church organization, 1743-1748; church votes, 1792, 1796-1797, 1800-1851.

CR II - "2nd Congl. Church Attleboro, Mass." (Flyleaf: "Records from June 1851 to September 1866 also from February 1908 to December 31, 1932.") Contains records, 1851-1866 (CR II) and 1908-1932 (CR V).

CR III - "2nd, Congregational Church Attleboro, Mass." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Second Congl Church Attleboro Mass. Formed November 30 1748. [Records] From 1866 to 1896.")

CR IV - "Second Congregational Church Attleboro, Mass." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Second Congregational Church Attleborough Mass. Organized November 1748 Incorporated March 1893. [Records] From 1896 to Date January 31, 1908.")

C REG I - Church Register of Membership, 1748-1930. Compiled 1896 and thenceforth kept up to date to 1930.

PR I - "A Book of Records for the second precinct In Attleborough." 1743-1786.



PR II - "The 2d Book of Records." (Flyleaf: "The 2d Book of Records for the 2d Precinct in Attleborough the first Records in this book begins in the year of Our Lord 1790.") Precinct/parish records, 1790-1831.

PR III - "Records Parish Book No. 3 1831-1881." (Flyleaf: "The 3d Book of Records For the 2d Precinct in Attleborough The first Records in this Book begins in the year of Our Lord 1831.")

SR I - "First Book of Records 1807." (Flyleaf: "The First Book of Records for the Congregational Society in the 2d Precinct in Attleboro. The first Records of this Book begins in 1807.") 1807-1893 (incorporation of the church and dissolution of the society).

Miscellaneous records: three volumes of Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1889-1908; Records of the Meeting House and Pew Deeds, 1824-1838.

ATTLEBORO, North (Separate C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Jan. 20, 1747/48<sup>1</sup> by seceders from the First and Second Churches of Attleboro. The seceders declared themselves dissatisfied with "the Constitution of the standing order of Churches in the land." Pastorless for fifteen years following the death of their minister, in 1767 the members called to the pulpit a

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1. Some authorities give Jan. 20, 1747 as the date of the church's gathering. But the earliest reference, viz. Isaac Backus, A [Church] History of New-England, With particular Reference to the Denomination of Christians called Baptists, II (Providence, 1784), p. 175, appears to be correct in settling for the later date. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936) cites the 1747 date on p. 239 and the 1748 date on p. 185. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 93-94, 225-226, relying wholly on secondary sources such as Daggett's History, erroneously holds for 1747.



former minister of a church of Separatists and Baptists at Sturbridge, and voted to become an "open communion" Baptist church. Upon this minister's death, the surviving members voted to affiliate with the "strict communion" Baptist church at Bellingham. For practical purposes, the church's existence as a Congregational church ended in 1767.

Ministers: Nathaniel Shepard (ord. 1748; d. 1752)  
 Abraham Bloss<sup>1</sup> (sett. 1767; d. 1769)

Deacon: William Carpenter (e. 1748 ?; dism. 1748 to become pastor of Norton Separate Church; d. 1768)

No records survive, other than those preserved in John Daggett's A Sketch of the History of Attleborough from Its Settlement to the Division (Boston, 1894), pp. 246, 271.

ATTLEBORO, East Church (see Attleboro, Second).

ATTLEBORO, First Church, Precinct and Society (see North Attleboro).

ATTLEBORO, West Parish (see North Attleboro).

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1. Sometimes given as "Bloise" or "Boise."

## AUBURN, First (C).

The church was gathered on Jan. 25, 1776 as the Church in the South Parish of Worcester, the South Precinct of Worcester having been organized in 1773. The area was given the name of Ward in 1778, and in 1837 incorporated as the town of Auburn; the name of the church changed accordingly, first to the Church in Ward, and latterly to the Church in Auburn. The First Religious Society in Ward was organized in 1824. On Dec. 13, 1889,<sup>1</sup> the church incorporated under the title of the First Congregational Church in Auburn; the society dissolved the following year.

Minister: Isaac Bailey<sup>2</sup> (ord. 1784; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Jonathan Stone (e. ca. 1784; d. 1806)  
Jesse Stone (e. ca. 1784; d. 1803)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1776-1777, a copy contained in CR III (below).

CR II - "Church Records in the Town of Ward. AD. 1822." 1822-1867.

CR III - Church Records, 1776-1777 (a copy), and 1866-1889, with some vital statistics to 1929.

CR IV - "Record First Cong'l Church Auburn Mass." 1889-1911.

SR I - "Records of the Clerk of the Congregational Society in the Town of Ward commencing March 15, 1824." 1824-1871.

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1. The date given in Manual of the First Congregational Church Auburn, Massachusetts Organized January 25, 1776 (Worcester, Mass., 1922). Other sources occasionally give the date as Dec. 16, 1889 (cf. Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties," Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897, II (Boston, 1898), p. 17.

2. Sometimes given as "Bayley."



SR II - Society Records, 1872-1890 (dissolution of the society, following the incorporation of the church the year preceding).

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1824-1876.

#### BARNSTABLE, West (C).

The church claims identity with the one gathered in 1616 at Southwark, England, under the ministry of Henry Jacob. A majority of the members, it is held, removed to New England in 1634, settling at Scituate, where they were joined by thirteen men, heretofore members of the church at Plymouth.

As against the claim of the Barnstable church's being gathered in 1616, there is the clear testimony of the Southwark-Scituate-Barnstable pastor, John Lothrop, that on Jan. 8, 1634/35<sup>1</sup> "wee had a day of humiliation and then att night joyned in covenaut togeather, so many of us as had beene in Covenaut before. . .," and further that Lothrop himself (having resigned the Southwark pastorate to speed his release from prison) was not inducted into office at Scituate till eleven days later,<sup>2</sup> while deacons were not chosen until August of 1635. The Scituate group, in short, considered the events of Jan. 8, 1634/35 to be the gathering of a new church.

On Oct. 11, 1639, Lothrop and an undetermined number of Scituate church members having removed to Barnstable, a second fresh beginning was made. Lothrop writes under date of Oct. 31, 1639, that a day of humiliation was held in gratitude "ffor the grace of our God to Settle us here in Church Estate, and to unite us togeather in holy Walkeing, and to make us Faithfull in keeping Covenaut with God, & one to another," while on Dec. 11 following, a day of

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1. Jan. 8, 1634/35 Old Style, or Jan. 18, 1634/35 New Style.

2. See CR I, below, NEHGR, IX (1855), 279, X (1856), 37.



thanksgiving was observed "for Gods exceeding mercye in bringing us hither Safely keeping us healthy & well in o<sup>r</sup> weake beginnings & in our church Estate . . . ." <sup>1</sup>  
 The church, then, appears to have been gathered on Oct. 11, 1639. In 1717, Barnstable was divided into two precincts, the older church being located in the western half, <sup>2</sup>where a parish had been incorporated in the year preceding.

Ministers:	John Lothrop	(sett. 1623-1634 Southwark; ord. or inst. 1634/35 Scituate; rem. to Barnstable 1639; d. 1653)
	John Mayo	(ord. teacher (?) 1640; rem. 1646; d. 1676) <sup>3</sup>
	Thomas Walley	(ord. 1663; d. 1679)
	Jonathan Russell	(ord. 1683; d. 1710/11)
	Jonathan Russell, Jr.	(ord. 1712; d. 1759)
	Oakes Shaw	(ord. 1760; d. 1807)
Ruling elders:	Nathaniel Tilden	(e. 1634/35 Scituate; remained at Scituate; d. 1641) <sup>4</sup>
	Thomas Dimoc <sup>5</sup>	(ord. 1650)
	Deacon Henry <sup>6</sup> Cobb	(ord. 1670; d. 1679)
	John Chipman	(ord. 1670; d. 1708)

1. See CR I, op. cit., X (1856), 37, 39.

2. The church in the eastern precinct was gathered in 1725.

3. Some authorities mention John Smith as Lothrop's successor for the years 1653-1659. See Barnstable, Second or Separate Congregational Church.

4. See Samuel Deane, History of Scituate, Massachusetts, from Its Settlement to 1831 (Boston, 1831), p. 90.

5. Sometimes given as "Dimmicke."

6. See Richard M. Chipman, "First Ancestor of the Chipmans in N. England," NEHGR, IV (1850), 23-24; "Notes to Declaration of Ruling Elder John Chipman," ibid., 251-252; "Sketch of the Chipman Family," op. cit., XV (1861), 79-81; George E. Bowman, "Elder Chipman's Will and Inventory, and the Will of Ruth Chipman," MD, III (1901), 181-186.



## Deacons: (A) At Scituate

Henry Cobb	(e. and ord. 1635; rem. to Barnstable 1639 and served as deacon till elev. to ruling eldership 1670; d. 1679)
Edward Foster	(ord. 1637/38; d. 1644)
Thomas Besbetch	(ord. 1637/38; d. <u>ca.</u> 1656) <sup>1</sup>

## (B) At Barnstable

Henry Cobb	(see above)
John (?) Cooper	(ord. 1640/41)
William Crocker	(ord. 1670; d. 1692)
Job Crocker	(e. 1684; d. 1719)
Samuel Chipman, Sr.	(e. 1706; d. 1723)
Richard Childs <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1706; m. 1718)
Jonathan Crocker	(e. between 1706 and 1725; d. 1771?)
Samuel Chipman, Jr.	(e. between 1706 and 1725; m. 1764)
Jonathan Baker	(e. between 1706 and 1725; m. 1742)
William Crocker	(m. 1712-1758)
Ebenezer Childs	(e. 1744; d. 1756)
Barnabas Chipman	(e. 1753; m. 1764)
Joseph Bliss <sup>3</sup>	(e. 1762)
Timothy Chipman	(e. 1762; d. 1770)
Nathan Prosset	(e. 1769)
Jonathan Crocker	(e. 1771)
Lot Nye	(e. 1783)
Jabez Goodspeed	(e. 1797)
Joseph Crocker	(e. 1797)

CR I PUB - Amos Otis, "Scituate and Barnstable Church Records," NEHGR, IX (1855), 279-287, notice of 1635 Scituate gathering, vital statistics, 1635-1653; X (1856), 37-43, church

1. Besbetch is sometimes given as "Bedbedge." See Deane, op. cit., p. 90. Deane also mentions as Scituate deacons Richard Sealis and William Gilson, but cites no authority for adding these names to the diaconate.

2. Deacon Childs, a man of venerable years in 1718, appears to have opted for the East Church about that time. However, there is no record of his having transferred membership to the new church. Probably he died before the official gathering of the new church in 1725.

3. Sometimes given as "Blish."



records, 1634-1653. A copy of the 1769 transcript made by Ezra Stiles from John Lothrop's Journal, then extant.

CR II - "Records of [the Church in] the West Parish of Barnstable, Massachusetts, 1668-1807." Fourteen photostats copies (one owned and held by the church; others in various repositories throughout the United States), made prior to the destruction by fire of the original.

VS III - Amos Otis, "Scituate and Barnstable Church Records," NEHGR, X (1856), 345-351. Baptisms, 1683-1702.

CR IV - "Church Records of the West Parish, Barnstable, by the Revd. Enoch Pratt, Pastor of Said Church, September 1807-1835 [and] extending through . . . 1894." Owned and held by the church.

See also the manuscript diaries of the Rev. Mr. Peter Thacher, for the years 1678/79-1681/82 and 1681/82-1698/99, with photostat, microfilm and typescript copies of the same, owned and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, and cited in this paper as Barnstable West, Thacher Diaries I & II. Some portions have been published by A. K. Teale (ed.), The History of Milton, Mass. 1640 to 1887 (Boston, 1887), pp. 641-657; and by Edward P. Hamilton, "The Diary of a Colonial Clergyman, Peter Thacher of Milton," MHSP, LXXI (1953-1957), 50-63.

BARNSTABLE, Separatist (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in September of 1661, under the ministry of John Smith, formerly supply minister at Barnstable West from 1653 to 1659.<sup>1</sup> On June 4, 1662, an ecclesiastical council voted not to hold communion with this Separatist church. Shortly thereafter, Smith removed to Rhode Island, and the church became extinct.

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1. See Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 189.



Minister: John Smith (sett. 1661; rem. 1662; d. 171-.)<sup>1</sup>

No records of the church are extant. See John Mellen, "A Topographical Description of the Town of Barnstable," *MHSC*, 1st Ser., III (1794; published 1810), 12-17; and Frederick Freeman, *The History of Cape Cod*, II (Boston, 1862), pp. 267-268.

#### BARNSTABLE, East (U).

The church was gathered on May 12, 1725, the East Precinct having been set off in 1717, and the East Parish Congregational Society organized in the latter year. The Trustees of the Barnstable Congregational Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1828.<sup>2</sup>

Ministers:	Joseph Greene	(ord. 1725; d. 1770)
	Timothy Hilliard	(ord. 1771; disp. 1783; d. 1790)
	John Mellen	(ord. 1783; res. 1800; d. 1828)
	Jotham Waterman	(ord. 1801; disp. 1815; d. 1836)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Lewis	(e. 1726; d. 1739)
	Samuel Bacon	(e. 1726; d. 1728)
	Nathaniel Bacon	(e. 1729; d. 1738)
	John Phinney	(e. 1729; d. 1746 or 1747)

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1. Weis, *op. cit.*, p. 240, however, gives Smith's dates of service at this Separatist church as 1662-1662.

2. Weis, *op. cit.*, p. 240, gives both the West and East churches the 1639 date assigned in this thesis to the West church. However, John Mellen, pastor of the East church from 1783 to 1800, and an early historian of Barnstable ("A Topographical Description of the Town of Barnstable," *MHSC*, 1st Ser., III [1794; published 1810], 12-17), makes a point of dating this East church from 1725.

Robert Davis	(e. 1738; d. 1765)
Moodey Russell	(e. 1740; d. 1761)
John Hinckley	(e. 1748; d. 1765)
Edward Bacon, Esq.	(e. 1765)
Gershom Davis	(e. 1765; res. 1785; d. 1790)
Ebenezer Hamblin	(e. 1765; rem. 1794)
Nathaniel Lewis	(e. 1783; rem. 1813)
Joseph Hallett	(e. 1785; d. 1809)
Timothy Phinney	(e. 1794; d. 1838)

Records owned by the church; on deposit in the County Treasurer's Office, Barnstable County Court House, Barnstable.

CR I - "Records of the East Parish Congregational Church, Barnstable, Mass. March 1725 to May 1816." Excellent coverage of all ecclesiastical councils in the area attended by delegates from this church, 1726-1814.

CR II - "The Records of the Church in the East Precinct in Barnstable, Mass. Second Volume." 1820-1866; 1881 summary by then-pastor; vital statistics to 1900.

PR I - "Records of the East Parish Congregational Society, Barnstable, Mass. March 1717/8 to July 27, 1801." Inside cover: "Book of Precinct Records."

SR II - "2d. Book of Records for [the Society in] the East Precinct in Barnstable, 1801 to 1847."

BARNSTABLE, Separate (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on May 10, 1750, consisting of New Lights from Barnstable, Yarmouth and Hyannis. With the removal in 1760 of its pastor and the defection of members to a Baptist church at Hyannis, this Separate church soon became extinct.

Minister: Nathaniel Ewer (ord. 1750; rem. ca. 1760; d. 1806)



No records of the church are extant. In addition to the other secondary sources cited for the Barnstable churches, see C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 95, 247 and 311.

BARNSTABLE, Second (see Barnstable, Separatist, referred to by Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 240, as "Second Congregational Church." See Barnstable, East.).

BARRE, First (U).

The church was gathered on July 29, 1753 as the Church of Rutland District. In 1776, the name was changed when the district became the town of Barre. The First Parish in Barre was organized in 1818.

Ministers:	Thomas Frink	(inst. 1753; dism. 1766; d. 1777)
	Josiah Dana	(ord. 1767; d. 1801)
	James Thompson	(ord. 1804; d. 1854)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Mason <sup>1</sup>	(m. 1766-1783)
	Jonas Rice <sup>1</sup>	(m. 1766-1783)
	Matthias Stone	(m. 1766; res. and rem. 1774)
	Isaac Tobey	(e. 1781; m. 1791)
	Lt. Andrew Parker	(e. 1784; m. 1785 in Phillipston CR I)

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1. Probably the same deacon cited occasionally during these years as "Jotham Rice."

Jonas Eaton	(e. 1784; res. 1816)
Dr. John Williams	(e. 1792)
Samuel Smith II	(e. 1795) <sup>1</sup>
Moses Holden	(e. 1804)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1752-1766. Reportedly taken by Thomas Frink after his dismissal in 1766.

CR II - Church Records, 1766-1827.

CR II COPY - "Records: First Parish: Barre: Mass."  
MS copy made in 1898.

VS II PUB - Franklin P. Rice, "Baptisms from the Records of the First Church of Barre, Mass., 1767-1831, the Births Not Being on the Town Records," NEHGR, LVII (1903), 410-414 and LVIII (1904), 54-62.

CR III - Church Records, 1827-1844.

BASS RIVER, Church (see Beverly, First Parish).

BECKET, First (C).<sup>2</sup>

The church was gathered on Dec. 28, 1758 as the Church in Plantation No. 4, becoming the Church in Becket with the

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1. It appears unlikely that Jason Sherman and Noah Ripley, elected to the diaconate in 1802, accepted their election.

2. Properly cited, although the present mailing address is Chester, Mass. Not to be confused with the First Church (C) in Chester, which was gathered in 1769.



organization of the town in 1765. The First Congregational Society in the Town of Becket was incorporated in 1798, and the Proprietors of the Meeting House in 1808.

Ministers: Ebenezer Martin (ord. 1759; dism. 1764;  
d. 1795)  
Zadoc Hunn (ord. 1771; dism. 1788;  
d. 1801)<sup>1</sup>

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Isaiah Kingsley (e. 1759; d. 1796)  
Ebenezer Bush (e. 1761; d. 1768)  
Nathaniel Kingsley (e. 1772; d. 1807)  
Ebenezer Walden (e. 1797; d. 1822)  
Oliver Brewster (e. 1797; d. 1812)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "A Book of Records for the Use of the Church of Christ in No. 4, Nov. the 20, A.D., 1758." 1758-1802, with some notices and vital statistics to 1883. Lacuna, 1775-1793.

CR II - "Record of the Church of Christ in Becket, Vol. 2." 1808-1839, with some notices and vital statistics to 1873.

CR I & II COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Becket, Mass. Records of The Congregational Church (Township No. 4)." Copy made in 1902, owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield. Microfilms of this item owned by the church, and by the Congregational Christian Historical Society, Boston.

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1883-1914. Destroyed by fire in the burning of the church clerk's house.

SR I - "Records of the First Congregational Society in the Town of Becket." 1798-1854.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1899-1945; fragment of the Society Records for 1799.

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1. There was no settled minister from 1788 to 1806, the pulpit being supplied by Joseph Badger, the minister at Blandford.

BECKET CENTRE (see Becket, First).

BEDFORD, First Parish (U).  
First Church (C).

The church was gathered on July 15, 1730. Parish and church separated into Unitarian and Congregational bodies in 1833.

Ministers:	Nicholas Bowes	(ord. 1730; diss. 1754; d. 1755)
	Nathaniel Sherman	(ord. 1756; diss. 1768; d. 1797)
	Joseph Penniman	(ord. 1771; diss. 1793; d. 1803)
	Samuel Stearns	(ord. 1796; d. 1834)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Nathaniel Merriam	(e. 1730; d. 1738)
	Israel Putnam	(e. 1730; d. 1760)
	Job Lane	(e. 1738; d. 1762)
	Benjamin Bacon	(e. 1759; d. 1791)
	Stephen Davis	(e. 1760; d. 1787)
	James Wright	(e. 1785; res. 1817)
	William Merriam	(e. 1796; d. 1804)
	Moses Fitch	(e. 1805; d. 1825)

The whereabouts of the records of the church prior to the 1833 separation is unknown.<sup>1</sup>

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1. The present Unitarian church's collection of records, on deposit in a local bank, include no original records antedating 1890. The present Congregational church has records dating from its inception in 1833; the first volume of church records contains a memo dated 1889 which states that at that time, the Congregational body held records going back to 1730.



VS I - Charles W. Jenks, "Some Records of Bedford, Mass.," NEHGR, LXII (1908), 69-78, 157-161. A few vital statistics, 1803-1834, from the private records of Samuel Stearns.

BEDFORD PRECINCT (see New Bedford).

BELCHERTOWN (C).

The church was gathered in the spring of 1737 as the Church in Cold Spring, changing its name when the town was organized in 1761, and incorporating on March 16, 1891. The Congregational Society in Belchertown was organized in 1823.

Ministers: Edward Billing (ord. 1739; dism. 1752;  
d. 1760)  
Justus Forward (ord. 1756; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Deacon John Smith <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1737; d. 1777)
	Aaron Lyman	(e. 1737; d. 1780)
	Elijah Smith	(e. 1761; d. 1770)
	Joseph Bridgman	(e. 1770; d. 1773)
	Joseph Smith	(e. 1770; d. 1803)
	Edward Smith	(e. 1781; rem. 1793)
	Elijah Dwight	(e. 1793; d. 1795)
	Amasa Smith	(e. 1795; res. and rem. 1802; d. 1847)
	Eliakim Phelps	(e. 1803; d. 1824)
	James Walker	(e. 1804; res. 1827)

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1. Formerly a deacon at Hatfield.

No records are extant antedating 1756, a fact noted as early as 1802. Items starred (\*) are on deposit at the local historical society; others are held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records Book No. 1." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church of Christ in Cold-Spring.") 1756-1762, with vital statistics to 1784 and miscellaneous data to 1801.\*

CR II - MISSING, "No. 2. Records of the Church in Belchertown." 1764-1801. Extant in 1927.

CR II COPY - Copy of CR II, made in 1927, of CR II; in four booklets numbered 2A, 2B, 2C, and 2D.\*

VS II - "Records of Admission to Communion in the Chh at Belchertown - Baptisms - Marriages - Deaths &c. No. 3 - N.B. No. 2 Contains Chh Votes and Proceedings." 1764-1801.\*

CR III - "Records of the Church of Christ." Abstract of church proceedings, 1756-1802; church records, 1802-1832.\*

CR IV - "Records of Congregational Church, 1833-1849 inclusive."

CR V - "Church Records." 1849-1892, with additional data to 1907.

CR VI - Church Records, 1891-1928.

SR I - "Society Records, Belchertown." 1834-1882.

BELLINGHAM (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 22, 1727, but declined sharply in membership upon Mills' dismissal in 1738, and in 1756 numbered only eight members. The date of dissolution usually cited, 1774, is that of the razing of the meetinghouse. The First Congregational Society in Bellingham was organized in 1821 by Congregationalists and Universalists to oppose the activities of the Baptists



of the town, but was dissolved in 1824. It was briefly succeeded by the Parish, organized in 1825, which ceased to function in 1827.

Minister: Jonathan Mills (ord. 1727; dism. and rem. 1738; d. 1773)

No records of this church are known to be extant, although reference is made to their existence in Abiel Fisher, Jr., Century Sermons. Two Discourses Delivered at Bellingham, in the Year 1822 (Worcester, 1822). See also George F. Partridge, History of the Town of Bellingham, Massachusetts, 1719-1919 (Bellingham, 1919).

#### BERKLEY, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 2, 1737, and incorporated on March 2, 1891. The Free Christian Society in Berkley was incorporated in 1814. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1813.

Ministers: Samuel Tobey (ord. 1737; d. 1781)  
Thomas Andros (ord. 1788; dism. 1834; d. 1845)

Ruling elders: Deacon Daniel Axtell (e. 1748; ord. 1750; cta. by 1762)  
Deacon Jacob French (e. 1748; ord. 1750; m. 1791)  
Deacon John Paul (e. 1762; m. 1772)  
Deacon Ebenezer Crane (e. 1789; m. 1791)

Deacons: Gershom Crane (e. 1737; res. 1762)  
Daniel Axtell (e. 1737; elev. to ruling elder in 1748)  
Capt. John Paul (e. 1748; elev. to ruling elder in 1762)  
Lt. Jacob French (e. 1748; elev. to ruling elder in 1748)  
Samuel Tubbs (e. 1764; m. 1766)  
Ebenezer Crane (e. 1764; elev. to ruling elder in 1789)

The records are church property, and are deposited with The Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton.

CR I - "Berkley Records of the Old Church By Rev. Samuel Tobey 1737 to 1765 [sic]." 1737-1778.

CR II - "Records First Church of Christ in Berkley Mass." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Records belonging to y<sup>e</sup> Church of Christ in Berkley.") 1787-1884.

CR III - "Records First Church of Christ in Berkley Mass." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Records belonging to The 1st Church of Christ in Berkley.") 1885-1951.

SR I - "Records of the Proceedings; & Meetings of the Congregational Society in the town of Berkley which commenced September the thirteenth AD 1824." 1824-1851.

SR II - "Congregational Society's Book of Records A.D. 1852." 1851-1907.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1826-1896, 1894-1949; Records of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, 1813-1951.

BERLIN, Federated (C, U).

The church was gathered on April 7, 1779 as the Church in the South Parish of Bolton, which parish had been incorporated in 1778. In 1784, with the organization of the town of Berlin, the church's name was changed to that of the Church of Christ in Berlin.

This church and parish being Unitarian in sympathy, on March 25, 1883 the orthodox organized the Evangelical Congregational Society in Berlin and gathered a church. The older Unitarian church and society were dissolved in 1843, but Unitarianism reorganized at a later date, probably in 1872.

The present Federated Church or First Parish Church was constituted in 1947 by the Congregationalist, Unitarian and Methodist churches of the town.



Minister: Reuben Puffer, D.D. (ord. 1781; d. 1829)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:<sup>1</sup> Deacon Josiah Sawyer (e. 1787; res. 1799)  
 James Goddard (e. 1787; res. 1807)  
 Jonathan Merriam (e. 1799; res. 1815)

The records are church property, and are deposited in the town library.

CR I - Church Records, 1779-1828.

CR II - Church Records, 1829-1878.

CR III - Church Records, 1882-1908 (incorrectly labeled "Vol. IV.")

Miscellaneous records: those of the later Unitarian church, 1872-1888, 1889-1933.

#### BERNARDSTON, First (U).

The church was gathered on Nov. 25, 1741 as the Church in Falltown, the name being changed when the town of Bernardston was organized in 1762. The Society appears to have been organized about 1817, and was incorporated as the Congregational Unitarian Society of Bernardston in 1891.

Ministers: John Norton (ord. 1741; dism. 1745; d. 1778)  
 Job Wright (ord. 1761; dism. 1782; d. 1823)  
 Amasa Cook (ord. 1783; dism. 1805; d. 1816)

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1. Amos Merriam and Joshua Johnson served provisionally as deacons during the church's formative years, but appear never to have been formally ordained or installed. Sawyer, who helped to organize the church, was apparently a deacon elsewhere, and served in the same capacity in this church until formally elected to the post in 1787.

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Ebenezer Sheldon	(m. 1743 ?, 1762-1765)
	Zebulon Allen	(e. after 1756; d. 1786)
	Elijah Kingsley	(e. after 1761; d. 1839)
	Jonathan Sheldon	(m. 1791; d. 1802)
	Asaph Allen	(res. and rem. 1796; d. 1841)
	Jesse Field	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1800 ?; d. 1823)
	Prence Snow	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1800 ?; d. 1828)

No records are extant for the years antedating 1809, a lack noted by Timothy Rogers, CR I, under date of September 20, 1809. The later records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Record." (Flyleaf: "Clergymans Record for The First Congregational Church in Bernardston Mass. From the year 1809.") 1809-present; some memoranda of earlier years.

SR I - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Congregational or Unitarian Society of Bernardston - Commencing the Nineteenth Day of February A.D. 1864.") 1864-1932.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1817-1875.

BETHLEHEM, Church (see Otis).

BETHLEHEM AND LOUDON, United Society (see Otis).



## BEVERLY, First (U).

Following action taken by Salem's First Church on Mar. 23, 1667, this church was gathered on Sept. 20 of the same year; its parish was organized in 1718. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1832. The church was early known as "the Church of Christ at Bass River in Salem" and as "the church at the North Side of the Ferry." During the nineteenth century, it was also popularly called "South" or "Old South" Church.

Ministers:	John Hale	(ord. 1667; d. 1700)
	Thomas Blowers	(ord. 1701; d. 1729)
	Joseph Champney	(ord. 1729; d. 1773)
	Joseph Willard, S.T.D.	(ord. colleague 1772; dism. to presidency of Harvard College 1781; d. 1804)
	Joseph McKeen	(ord. 1785; dism. to presidency of Bowdoin College 1802; d. 1807)
	Abiel Abbot	(inst. 1803; d. 1828)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Humphrey Woodbury, Sr.	(e. 1667/68; ord. 1685)
	John Hill	(e. 1684; ord. 1685; m. 1698)
	Peter Woodbury, Sr.	(e. 1686; ord. 1689; m. 1698)
	Samuel Balch, Sr.	(e. 1704; d. 1723)
	Peter Woodbury, Jr.	(e. 1704; d. 1707)
	William Dodge	(e. 1707; d. <u>ca.</u> 1747)
	Jonathan Conant	(e. 1723/24)
	Benjamin Balch	(e. 1723/24; m. 1745)
	Israel Wood	(e. 1730/31; d. 1744)
	Joseph Trask	(e. 1738)
	Joseph Stevens	(e. 1743)
	Israel Wood	(e. 1744; m. 1756)
	Benjamin Cleeves	(e. 1752; m. 1756)
	Joseph Foster	(e. 1752; m. 1756)
	Benjamin Cleeves, Jr.	(e. 1761; d. 1808)
	Caleb Wallis	(e. 1761; d. 1780)
	Robert Roundey	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1762; d. 1812)
	Capt. Josiah Batchelder	(e. 1780)

The records are church property, and are stored in a local bank.



CR I - "A Church Book For the Church at Bass=River Side (att) Beverley." (Flyleaf: "A Church Book, Containing The Affaieirs of The Church of Christ at Bass=River in Salem [Which is sometimes called the North Side of the Ferry] Which began y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> September one thousand six hundred sixty-seaven: Registered first by Robert Morgan, he being a brother of y<sup>e</sup> Said Church & desired & be-trusted so to doe. And after him by y<sup>e</sup> Pastor John Hale.") 1667-1772.

CR I COPY - MS "Copy of the First Book of Records of the First Church in Beverly," transcribed 1868 by William P. Upham. At Essex Institute, Salem.

CR I COPY PUB - William P. Upham, "Beverly First Church Records," EIHC, XXXV (1899), 177-211; XXXVI (1900), 141-160, 297-324; XXXVII (1901), 177-200, 345-368; XXXVIII (1902), 161-184, 257-272, 353-368; XXXIX (1903), 333-348; XL (1904), 129-144, 241-256; XLI (1905), 193-226. Off-printed under the title Records of the First Church in Beverly, Massachusetts, 1667-1772 (Salem, 1905).

CR II - "Records. First Parish Church. Vol 2. 1775-1802 [sic]." 1772-1803.

CR III - "Records. First Parish Church. Vol 3. 1803-1830."

CR IV - "First Church Records 1830 to 1920 [sic]. Vol 4. Beverly, Mass." 1830-1923.

PR I - "The First Book of Records of the First Parish in Beverly." (Flyleaf: "Book of Votes of the Inhabitants of Beverly first Parish, & Acts of Comtees & Assessors.") Parish records, 1718-1764.

PR II - "Records. 1763 to 1797. No. 2." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Records of the Votes Acts & orders of the Inhabitants & Committee of the first Parish in Beverly: 1763.")

PR III - "[Parish] Record Book. 1798 to 1830. No. 3."

PR IV - "[Parish] Records. 1830 to 1872. No. 4." (Flyleaf: "Book 4. Records of the First Parish in Beverly Beginning with the annual meeting, March 9<sup>th</sup> 1830.")



Miscellaneous records: Parish Warrants, 1717-1802, 1802-1870, 1870-1923; Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1754-1782, 1782-1802, 1803-1825, 1835-1860; Parish Collector's Accounts, 1720/21-1795, 1801-1846, 1840-1862, 1863-1865; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1764-1789, 1789-1836, 1836-1905; Pew Deeds, 1835-1867.

# BEVERLY, Second (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 28, 1715. The precinct, variously called Royalside Precinct, Salem and Beverly Precinct, North Precinct, and Second Precinct, had been incorporated in 1713. The Second Congregational Society was incorporated in 1866.

Ministers:	John Chipman	(ord. 1715; d. 1775)
	Enos Hitchcock	(ord. 1771; dism. 1780; d. 1803)
	Daniel Oliver	(ord. 1787; dism. 1797; d. 1840)
	Moses Dow	(ord. 1801; dism. 1813; d. 1837)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Cresy	(e. 1716; d. 1735)
	Jonathan Rayment <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1722; d. 1745)
	John Conant	(e. 1735; d. 1759-1760)
	Josiah Batchelder	(e. 1735, refused ?)
	Joshua Dodge	(e. 1739/40; d. 1774)
	John Conant	(e. 1755; m. 1780)
	Benjamin Trask	(e. 1771; m. 1774)
	William Dodge	(e. 1775; d. 1810)
	Samuel Conant	(e. 1781; d. 1811)

The records are church property, and are deposited with the local historical society. Starred (\*) items have been microfilmed and Xeroxed.

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1. Sometimes given as "Raymond."

CR I - "Records Second Church of Christ. Town of Beverly 1715-1848." (Flyleaf: "This Book belongs to the Second Church of Christ in Beverly Gathered out of Salem and Beverly And Embodied into a distinct Society on the 28th Day of December in the year of our Lord 1715.")

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1848-ca. 1900.

PR I - "First Book of [Precinct] Records Commencing November 13th 1713. This Booke belongs to y<sup>e</sup> people of y<sup>e</sup> Precinct of Salem & Beverly 1715." 1715-1753.\*

PR II - "Second Book of Records. Precinct of Salem & Beverly's Book of Records." 1753-1792.\*

PR III - Precinct/Parish Records, 1793-1862.\*

PR IV - "Journal." Precinct/parish records, 1863-1904.\*

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1785-1893; Precinct Committee's Records of Orders and Abate-ments, 1715-1756; Parish Committee's Order Book, 1809-1836.

BEVERLY, Dane Street (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 9, 1802 as the Third Congregational Church, and a few years later took the name Dane Street Congregational Church. The third Congregational Society was organized in 1802 and incorporated in 1803; it took the name Dane Street Society in Beverly at its reincorporation in 1837.

Minister: Joseph Emerson (sett. 1803; dism. 1816;  
d. 1833)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Dike (e. 1802; d. 1837)  
John Low (e. 1804; d. 1839)



The church clerk reports only miscellaneous fragments of records antedating the incorporation of the church in 1920. Some details are given in Articles of Faith, and Form of Covenant, Adopted by the Third Congregational Church in Beverly, at Its Formation, Nov. 9, 1802 (Boston, 1807); Edwin M. Stone, History of Beverly, Civil and Ecclesiastical, from Its Settlement in 1630 to 1843 (Boston, 1843); Catalogue of the Officers and Members of the Dane St. Church, Beverly, Mass. (Boston, 1868); Historical Sketches of the Dane Street Congregational Church, Beverly, Massachusetts (n.p., 1902); and Beverly Historical Society, Historic Beverly (Beverly, 1937).

BEVERLY, Old South Church (see Beverly, First Parish).

BEVERLY, Royalside (Ryal Side) Precinct (see Beverly, Second).

BEVERLY, South Church (see Beverly, First Parish).

BEVERLY, Third Church and Society (see Beverly, Dane Street).

## BILLERICA, First (U).

The church was gathered on Nov. 11, 1663, and incorporated in 1835, the same year that the First Parish was incorporated.

Ministers: Samuel Whiting, Jr. (sett. 1658; ord. 1663; d. 1713)  
 Samuel Ruggles (sett. 1707; ord. 1708; d. 1749)  
 John Chandler (ord. 1747; dism. 1760; d. 1762)  
 Henry Cummings, D.D. (ord. 1763; d. 1823)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Tompson (m. 1694; d. 1732)  
 Joseph Davis (d. 1747)  
 Samuel Hill (m. 1737; d. 1755)  
 Joshua Abbot (m. 1747; res. 1764; d. 1769)  
 William Stickney (m. 1751; d. 1781)  
 Samuel Whiting (e. 1747; res. 1769; d. 1772)  
 Ralph Hill (e. 1754; d. 1789)  
 Joshua Abbot, Jr. (e. 1764; res. 1799; d. 1807)  
 Joshua Davies (e. 1769; d. 1777)  
 Dr. Timothy Danforth (e. 1777; d. 1792)  
 Col. William Tompson (e. 1783; res. 1799; d. 1806)  
 Oliver Crosby (e. 1789; d. 1825)  
 Ebenezer Pemberton (e. 1799; m. 1803)  
 Samuel Whiting (e. 1799; res. ca. 1842; d. 1843)

No records for the years 1663-1747 are extant. The later records are owned by the church and held by the Stearns family of Billerica.

CR I - "A Church Book belonging to the Chh of Christ in Billerica given to Said Chh by y<sup>e</sup> persons hereafter named who gave the Sums affixed to each of their names to pay for it." 1747-1835/1842.

CR I COPY 1891 - MS copy, made in 1891. Some errors in transcription.



CR I COPY 1955 - Typescript copy of CR I, more faithful to the original than CR I COPY 1891.

CR II - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Billerica, Massachusetts. Begun 1837." 1837-1869.

CR III & REG - [So-called] Minister's Book, with covenants of 1815, 1840 and 1871, and signers, together with church records, 1871-1917.

VS I - "Record of Baptisms, Marriages & Deaths." 1837-1856.

PR I - MISSING, Parish Records, 1835-1873. See PR II, flyleaf, for note verifying destruction of this book by fire in 1873.

PR I MISCELLANY - "Copy of Parish papers extant from 1849 to 1873." Copy of papers and records extant after the 1873 fire.

PR II - "Records of the First Parish in Billerica Commencing March 31st A.D. 1873, Ending May 13, 1901." 1873-1901.

Miscellaneous records: Pew Deeds and Conveyances, 1802-1882.

BILLINGSGATE (see Wellfleet).

BLACKSTONE (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Sept. 14, 1768 as the Church in the South Precinct of Mendon. Sources indicate that the church had no regular ministry after 1812, and that it became extinct about 1830.

The South Precinct of Mendon (incorporated in 1766) became the town of Blackstone in 1845, and inasmuch as the meetinghouse was still standing, it was popularly designated the meetinghouse of the First Parish in Blackstone. A further alteration of boundary lines in 1916 placed the building in the town of Millville, where it stands today, claimed as the oldest unaltered meetinghouse in Massachusetts. It is frequently described as the Chestnut Hill Church.

Frederick L. Weis, Let the Work of the Fathers Stand (n.p., 1941), holds that the church elected the Unitarian position toward the end of its existence (see also his The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England [Lancaster, Mass., 1936], p. 241). He offers as evidence the fact that a new orthodox Congregational Church was organized in the area in 1841. Several additional facts, however, call his conclusion into question. For one thing, Preserved Smith, the last regular minister at the Chestnut Hill Meeting House, did not himself declare for Unitarianism until 1820, eight years after relinquishing the Chestnut Hill post. Furthermore, the preacher supplying Chestnut Hill from 1820 to 1822 was a Baptist, while the supply from 1826 till the church ceased to function was an orthodox Congregationalist. It seems more reasonable, therefore, to list this church as an extinct Congregational body.

Ministers:	Benjamin Balch	(ord. 1768; res. 1773; d. 1815)
	Supplies	(1773-1805, supplied by the ministers of Mendon's First Church)
	Preserved Smith	(inst. Mendon First 1805; dism. 1812, having served this church simultaneously throughout this period; d. 1834)

Weis, Let the Work of the Fathers Stand, reports all records destroyed by fire at an unspecified date.



## BLANDFORD (P/C).

The church was gathered in 1735 at Hopkinton by the Reverend Thomas Prince, minister of Boston's Third (Old South) Church; its membership consisted largely of Presbyterian immigrants hailing from Northern Ireland, together with a sprinkling of Irish Independents. From 1735 to 1741, it was known as the (Presbyterian) Church in Glasco; in the latter year, the area became the town of Blandford, and the church continued under that title. In 1801, the church voted to adopt congregational principles, an action rescinded later the same year. In 1805, it voted once again to become a Congregational church, a decision that this time remained firm. The First Christian Society in Blandford was incorporated in 1799, and was superceded by the First Religious Society incorporated in 1874.

Ministers:	William McClenathan <sup>1</sup>	(inst. 1744; rem. 1746; d. <u>ca.</u> 1758)
	James Morton	(ord. 1747; disp. 1767; d. 1793)
	Joseph Patrick	(ord. 1772; disp. 1772; d. 1783)
	Joseph Badger	(ord. 1787; rem. 1800; d. 1846)
	John Keep	(ord. 1805; rem. 1821; d. <u>ca.</u> 1854)

Ruling elders: during its seventy-year Presbyterian phase, the church supplied itself with ruling elders. Six of these men served simultaneously as deacons, and are designated by an asterisk (\*) in the following list of elders.

John Huston*	
John Stewart*	
David Boies*	(d. 1752)
Israel Gibbs*	(d. 1780)
Samuel Boies*	(d. 1804)
William Boies*	(d. 1804)
John Knox	(m. 1779-1789)
Robert Laughead	(m. 1779-1785)
Robert Blair	(m. 1781; d. 1801)
Robert Lloyd	(m. 1787; d. 1803)

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1. Sometimes given as "McClanachan."

Robert Henry	(m. 1787)
Ephraim Gibbs	(e. 1790; d. 1825)
David Ingraham	(e. 1790)
John Crooks	(e. 1790; m. 1799)

Deacons: the following ruling elders served as deacons, following the 1801 vote to change to Congregationalism:

William Boies  
 Samuel Boies  
 Robert Lloyd  
 Ephraim Gibbs

The following were elected to the diaconate without ever having served as ruling elders:

Elihu Sperry (e. 1804; d. 1822)  
 Jesse Bishop (e. 1804)

No records for the years 1735-1781 are extant. The later records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "First Records of the Congregational Church, Blandford, Mass." 1781-1823.

CR I COPY - Typescript, "Copy of the First Records of the Congregational Church, Blandford, Mass," 1781-1820.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in Blandford, Mass." 1823-1880.

CR II COPY - Typescript, "Copy of the Second Book of 1st Cong. Church Records, Blandford, Mass. 1823-1880."

CR III - "Record Book of the First Cong. Church of Blandford, Mass. 1880-" 1950.

SR I - "Record of y<sup>e</sup> first Society in Blandford." 1799-1872.

SR I COPY - Typescript, "Record of y<sup>e</sup> first society in Blandford," 1799-1873.

SR II - "Records of First Religious Society." 1873-1929 (dissolution of society).



## BOLTON, First (U).

The church was gathered on Nov. 4, 1741. The First Parish in Bolton was organized in 1778, being succeeded in 1834 by The First Parish and Religious Society. The church and society were incorporated as one body in 1905. On Feb. 28, 1931, the Unitarians federated with the local Baptist church and Friends Meeting, retaining the title of The First Parish and Religious Society. At the present time, each retains its separate identity, although one minister serves the whole federated body.

Ministers:	Thomas Goss	(ord. 1741; disp. 1771; formed the Second Congre- gational Church of Bolton 1771; d. 1780)
	John Walley	(inst. 1773; disp. 1783; d. 1784)
	Phineas Wright	(ord. 1785; d. 1802)
	Isaac Allen	(ord. 1804; d. 1844)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Jabez Fairbank	(m. 1742-1744)
	Josiah Whitcomb	(m. 1751)
	Nathaniel Longley	(m. 1783; res. 1813; d. 1827)
	Daniel Nourse	(m. 1792-1801)
	Jonas Houghton	
	David Nourse	(m. 1803)
	Abraham Moore	(d. 1803)
	Jonathan Nourse	(e. 1803)
	John Sawyer	(e. 1803; d. 1812)
	Silas Holman	(e. 1803; d. 1847)

No records for the years 1741-1782 are extant. The later records are church property, and are deposited in the local public library.

CR I - "Church Records. First Parish in Bolton." Scattered records and miscellaneous memoranda, many gaps. 1782-1867.<sup>1</sup>  
Enclosure: "Church in Bolton: Rules of Discipline 1792"

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1. On the flyleaf, the following entry has been made: "No Records earlier than these have been preserved. Sundry matters relating to ecclesiastical affairs are, however, to be found in the Records of the Town."

to 1796." Reorganization of the church's disciplinary life under Rev. Phineas Wright.

CR II - "Book of Records of the Votes and proceedings of the Church of Christ in Bolton relative to pecuniary matters." 1801-1887, with memoranda to 1897; some non-financial records.

PR I - "Records of the first Parish and Religious Society in the town of Bolton began April 21st. 1834." 1834-1891.

PR II - "First Parish & Religious Society Records from March 8, 1891 to Sept. 23, 1930." Also contains pew deeds, 1845-1857.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1798-1887; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1844-1927.

BOLTON, Second (C), extinct.

Thomas Goss, minister of Bolton's First Church, was dismissed by church and town alike in 1771 on charges of maladministration. (Goss' Toryism aggravated the offence in the eyes of his parishioners.)

Instituting an unsuccessful lawsuit to collect his salary from the town, Goss proceeded to gather a Second Church, and held services in his home. After his death in 1780, the membership of the Second Church was gradually reabsorbed in the First Church.

Minister: Thomas Goss (gathered church 1771; d. 1780)

No records of this church are known to exist. See Town of Bolton, History of Bolton, 1738-1938 (n.p., 1938).

BOLTON, South Church and Parish (see Berlin).



## BOSTON, First and Second (U).

The First Church was gathered (at Charlestown) on July 30, 1630, and within three months removed to Boston. It received incorporation on March 3, 1829.

The present church was constituted in 1968 by merger with Boston's Second Church, for which a separate entry is made below.

Ministers:	John Wilson	(inst. teacher 1630; inst. pastor 1632; d. 1667)
	John Cotton	(inst. teacher 1633; d. 1652)
	John Norton	(inst. teacher 1656; d. 1663)
	John Davenport	(inst. pastor 1668; d. 1669/70)
	James Allen	(inst. teacher 1668; d. 1710)
	John Oxenbridge	(inst. pastor 1670; d. 1674)
	Joshua Moody	(inst. assistant 1684; d. 1697)
	John Bailey	(inst. assistant 1693; d. 1697)
	Benjamin Wadsworth	(ord. 1696; res. to be- come President of Har- vard 1725; d. 1736/37)
	Thomas Bridge	(inst. 1705; d. 1715)
	Thomas Foxcroft	(ord. 1717; d. 1769)
	Charles Chauncy, D.D.	(ord. 1727; d. 1787)
	John Clarke, D.D.	(ord. 1778; d. 1798)
	William Emerson	(inst. 1799; d. 1811)
Ruling elders:	Increase Nowell	(e. 1630; dism. to Charlestown Church 1632; d. 1655)
	Thomas Oliver	(e. and ord. 1632; d. 1657/58)
	Thomas Leverett	(e. 1633; d. 1650)
	Deacon William Colbron <sup>1</sup>	(e. and ord. 1650; d. 1662)
	Deacon Jacob Eliot	(e. and ord. 1650; d. 1651)
	James Penn	(e. and ord. 1650; d. 1671)
	John Wiswell	(e. 1670; d. 1687)

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1. Sometimes given as "Colburn(e)" or "Colborn(e)."



Lt. Thomas Clarke	(e. 1672; ord. 1673; d. 1678)
Timothy Prout	(e. 1679; d. 1702)
Isaac Addington	(e. 1679; d. 1714/15)
Deacon Joseph Bridgham <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1694/95; d. 1708/09)
Thomas Jackson	(e. 1694/95; d. 1710)
Deacon David Copp	(e. and ord. 1701; d. 1713)
Deacons: William Gager	(e. 1630; d. 1630)
William Aspinwall	(e. 1630; Hutchinsonian; ban- ished, demitted office, rem. to R.I. 1638; in Boston 1642- 1653; rem. to England, d. <u>ca.</u> 1655)
William Colbron <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1630; elev. to ruling elder and ord. 1650; d. 1662)
Giles Firmin <sup>3</sup>	(e. 1633; d. 1634)
William Hutchinson	(e. 1636; husband of Anne Hutchinson; demitted office, rem. to R.I. 1638; d. 1642)
Jacob Eliot	(e. 1636; re-e. and ord. 1640; elev. to ruling elder and ord. 1650; d. 1651)
Valentine Hill	(e. and ord. 1640; d. 1662)
Thomas Marshall	(e. and ord. 1650; d. <u>ca.</u> 1665)
James Johnson	(e. and ord. 1650; dism. from office 1667)
Richard Trusdale	(e. and ord. 1650; res. and dism. 1668/69; then rem. to Boston's Third Church; d. 1671)
Robert Sanderson	(m. as deceased deacon 1687)

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1. Those several authorities who list Deacon Henry Bridgham as ruling elder of this church are in error.

2. Sometimes given as "Colburn(e)" or "Colborn(e)."

3. Alexander Gordon, Dictionary of National Biography (Oxford, 1921-1922), VII, 45-46, and Williston Walker, The Creeds and Platforms of Congregationalism (New York, 1893), p. 290, confuse two Gyles Firmins, father and son, erroneously making the son appear to have been the Boston deacon. For evidence that it was the senior Firmin (not his son, later distinguished in England as a partisan of presbyterianism) who officiated at Boston, see Winthrop's Journal (ed. by James K. Hosmer) (New York, 1908), I, p. 110; compare BOSTON, First, CR PUB I, 15, 16, 41.



Jacob Eliot	(e. 1666-1667; dism. from office 1668/69 for supporting those who formed Boston's Third Church; d. 1680)
Edward Ransford	(e. 1666-1667; dism. from office 1668/69 for supporting those who formed Boston's Third Church; d. 1680)
Henry Bridgham	(e. and ord. 1668; d. by 1671)
Robert Sanders	(e. and ord. 1668; d. 1693)
Henry Allen	(e. and ord. 1668; d. 1696)
Henry Phillips	(e. 1672; m. 1683)
Joseph Bridgham	(m. when elev. to ruling elder 1694/95; d. 1708/09)
David Copp	(e. 1694/95; ord. 1696; re-e. 1701; elev. to ruling elder 1701; d. 1713)
John Dyer	(e. 1694/95; probably refused)
John Marion, Jr.	(e. 1695-1696; ord. 1696; re-e. 1701; d. 1727/28)
Isaiah Tay <sup>1</sup>	(e. and ord. 1701; refused to officiate ca. 1712; dism. to Boston's Fourth (Brattle Square) Church 1721; d. 1730)
Thomas Hubbard	(ord. 1704; d. 1717)
Samuel Marshall	(e. 1717; ord. 1719; d. 1742/43)
Jonathan Williams	(e. 1717; ord. 1719; d. 1737)
Zechariah Thayer	(e. 1728; ord. 1731; d. 1735/36)
Thomas Waite	(e. 1733/34; ord. 1735; d. 1775)
Cornelius Thayer	(e. 1736; ord. 1741; d. 1745)
Jonathan Williams, Jr.	(e. 1737; ord. 1741; d. 1788)
Daniel Marsh	(e. 1747. "But to this day, January 1, 1754, declines being ordained.")
James Thwing <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1779; d. 1789)
Jacob Williams	(e. 1779; d. in Vt. ca. 1821)
David Tilden	(e. 1789; d. ca. 1814)
James Morrill	(e. 1789; d. 1833)

The records are owned by the church, and are divided between those kept at the church and those deposited in a local bank, with a few exceptions duly noted.

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1. Sometimes given as "Toy."

2. Not to be confused with his son, Deacon James Thwing, elected in 1814, resigned 1815.



CR I - Church Records, 1630-1785, with baptismal and charitable records to 1847 and 1883, respectively.<sup>1</sup>  
(Binding marked "6.")

CR I COPY BOSTON FIRST - "Records from 1630 to 1847. First Church Boston." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Church in Boston. From 1630 to 1847. Copied by David Pulsifer. 1847.")

CR I COPY MHS - "First Church Records Boston -- Old South Baptisms at the end." Undated copy of church records, 1630-1685, owned and held by Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

CR I COPIES CITY HALL

- "Records & Index. First Church Boston. 1630-1687." (Flyleaf: "Vol. I. Records of Admissions in The First Church, Boston. 1630 to 1687.")
- "Records. First Church Boston. 1630-1847. Part 2." (Flyleaf: "Records of First Church, Boston. Church History, Admissions, Dismissions, Baptisms. 1630-1847. Part II.")
- "Index to Records. First Church Boston. 1630-1847." (Flyleaf: "Index [Names] to [The two Parts of] Records of the Church History, Admissions, Dismissions, Baptisms of the First Church in Boston. 1630-1847.")
- "Records. First Church Boston. 1630-1847. Baptisms."
- "Index to Records. First Church Boston. 1630-1847. Baptisms." (Flyleaf: "Index to the Records of Baptisms of the First Church, Boston. 1630 to 1847.")

These undated copies are owned and held by the Registrar of Vital Statistics, City Hall, Boston. As will be seen by comparing dates, all copies extend beyond the terminus ad quem of CR I.

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1. CR PUB I, vi-vii, lists this as "Volume I." In noting the existence of several copies of these records, Pierce adds that "some baptismal records [to 1699] supplementing the recorded Boston births, were published in The Report of the Record Commissioners containing Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, 1630-1699 (Boston, 1883), and the signers of the church covenant through 1639 were printed in the Memorial History of Boston (Boston, 1882), I, 566-573."



CR II - "Records of the First Church in Boston - Begun July 11th: MDCCLXXXVI."<sup>1</sup> (Flyleaf: "Records of The First Church of Christ in Boston Begun July 11. 1786.") Church records, 1786-1815, as well as records of joint meetings of church and congregation.

CR III - Church Records, 1828-1841, with baptisms for 1794<sup>2</sup> and names of signers of covenant, 1786-1824 and 1829-1955.<sup>2</sup>

CR IV - "First Church. 1841." Church records, 1841-1919; baptisms, 1858-1955; funerals, 1919-1955; also, legacies, 1671-1815.<sup>3</sup>

C MISC I - "Record of Marriages in The First Church." 1801-1955.<sup>4</sup>

CR PUB I, II, III - Richard D. Pierce (ed.), "The Records of The First Church in Boston, 1630-1868," CSMP, XXXIX, XL, XLI (Boston, 1961). Contains the above-cited MS records (within specified date limitations) and PROP I (cf. below).<sup>5</sup>

C MISC II - "Marriage Record." 1898-1905.<sup>6</sup>

1. CR PUB I, vii, lists this as "Volume IV."

2. CR PUB I, vii, lists this as "Volume II."

3. CR PUB I, vii, lists this as "Volume III."

4. CR PUB I, vii, lists this as "Volume VI," printing the entries through 1867.

5. These three volumes, paginated continuously, are internally numbered as Vols. I, II, III, and are so cited in the thesis.

6. Some miscellaneous marriage records were published by Jeremiah Colburn, "Marriages in Boston, Mass. from the Original Certificates of the Clergymen Officiating," NEHGR, XXXIV (1880), 94-96 (covers 1707), and by Anson Titus, "Marriages of Rev. Thomas Foxcroft, A.M., Boston. 1717-1769," op. cit., XLII (1888), 152-155, 250-254.



Other miscellaneous church records: Records of the Sacramental and Poor Fund, 1696-1731, 1779-1812, 1814-1833, 1834-1884; Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1699-1728, 1755-1814, 1711-1788.

PROP I - "Records of First Church."<sup>1</sup> Records of the Proprietors of the Pews, 1808-1868.

PROP I COPY - "Original Records of the Meetings of the Proprietors of the First Church from August 1823. to July 1828. The contents of this Book are all copied into a Record Book now in use by the Proprietors' Clerk July 1862."

PROP II - Proprietors' Records, 1869-1910.

Miscellaneous proprietors' records: Standing Committee, 1881-1910; Pew Deeds, 1869-1921.

BOSTON, Second (U).

The church was gathered on June 5, 1650, and was popularly known as "The Old North Church" (not to be confused with the Episcopal church similarly designated). The Second

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1. CR PUB I, vii-viii, lists this as "Volume V," and gives the following brief explanation: "The proprietors were the legal corporation of pew holders who owned the church buildings and managed the secular affairs of the church. Gradually, however, many of the proprietors of pews ceased to have any active connection with the parish and it became increasingly desirable that the control of the church property be exercised by a more responsible body. Accordingly, a board of five trustees was created and, on April 22, 1922, a majority of the pew owners conveyed their rights to five proprietors acting concurrently as trustees. By 1936 all the pews had been so transferred and the membership of the proprietors and trustees thereafter became identical. The Trustees, in addition to carrying the responsibilities of the pew proprietors, also act as successors to the elders and deacons in the holding and administering of charitable funds."



Church and Society of Boston was incorporated on Feb. 4, 1824.

Four mergers have occurred during the church's lifetime. In 1741-1742, a group of Old Light opponents of the revival, led by junior pastor Samuel Mather, seceded and constituted Boston's Tenth Church. In accordance with Mather's dying wish, the surviving members of the Tenth Church returned to the Second Church in 1785-1786.

During the siege of Boston, the Second Church's (second) meetinghouse was destroyed by the British. Following the war, in 1779 this congregation merged with that of the Seventh ("New Brick") Church, retaining the name of the Second ("Old North") Church.

In 1845, a merger was effected with the Church of the Saviour, the bodies being incorporated as The Second Church on Feb. 22 of that year.

In 1968, following a fire which destroyed the First Church's building, that body and this merged to form The First and Second Church of Boston.

Ministers:	John Mayo	(inst. pastor 1655; dism. 1673; d. 1676)
	Increase Mather, D.D.	(ord. teacher 1664; d. 1723)
	Cotton Mather, D.D.	(ord. 1685; d. 1727/28)
	Joshua Gee	(ord. 1723; d. 1748)
	Samuel Mather, D.D.	(ord. 1732; dism. 1741; d. 1785)
	Samuel Checkley, Jr.	(ord. 1747; d. 1768)
	John Lathrop, D.D.	(ord. 1768; d. 1816)

Ruling elders:	Michael Powell	(e. 1655; d. 1672)
	----- Avery	(e. 1680, probably refused)

Deacons:	Christopher Gibson	(ord. 1670; d. 1673-1676)
	John Phillips	(ord. 1670; d. 1682)
	Daniel Turell	(e. 1678; m. 1693)
	----- Stone	(e. 1678; m. 1693)
	----- Hudson	(e. 1678; m. 1693)
	John Atwood	(e. 1693; ord. 1695; d. 1714)
	Obadiah Gill	(e. 1693; ord. 1695; d. 1701)
	John Barnard	(e. 1693; ord. 1695; d. 1730)
	Thomas Baker	(e. 1701; m. 1728)

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1. Sometimes given as "Turil" or "Tyrill." Turel, Stone and Hudson were elected "to supply the place" of deacons in 1678; they are mentioned in 1693, but it is possible that they were never ordained.



Edward Proctor	(m. 1718-1751)
John Buchanan	(e. 1720; m. 1728)
Grafton Feveryeare	(e. 1728; m. 1754)
William Larrabee	(e. 1728; m. 1749)
Edward Langdon	(m. 1749-1763)
Thomas Tyler	(e. 1751; d. 1770)
William Bordman	(e. 1771; m. 1799)
Deacon Jonathan Brown <sup>1</sup>	(adm. 1779; d. 1785)
Deacon John Tudor <sup>2</sup>	(adm. 1779; d. 1795)
Deacon Thomas Greenough	(adm. 1779; d. 1785)
Samuel Ridgeway	(m. 1786; d. 1799)
William Bell	(m. 1786-1799)
Deacon Benjamin Henderson <sup>3</sup>	(adm. 1786; m. 1799)
Samuel Parkman	(e. 1801; rem. 1824)
Thomas Lewis	(e. 1801; m. 1806)

The records are owned by the church and deposited with the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, unless otherwise noted.

Each of the total of eighty-nine books and boxes held by the Society has been assigned an Arabic numeral by church officials, and this is given in parentheses, following the code designation, in the case of each item cited below. It should be noted that Item 85 is the only extant book of early records of Boston's Arlington Street Church.

Not listed below, but worthy of note (and quoted in the thesis) are the following: "Diary of Increase Mather," MHSP, 2nd Ser., XIII (1899-1900), 340-374, 398-411; M. G. Hall, "The Autobiography of Increase Mather," AASP, LXXI (1961), 271-360; and Worthington C. Ford (ed.), "Diary of Cotton Mather," MHSC, 7th Ser., VII-VIII (1911-1912).

VS I (2) - "1682 1717 [sic]." Church membership, 1650-1741; Cotton Mather's "little book."

VS I COPY (2<sup>1</sup>) - "1682 1717 [sic]." "Library of the Second Church Boston." MS copy of VS I.

1. Brown, Tudor and Greenough were admitted in 1779 from Boston's Seventh or New Brick Church, where all had served as deacons.

2. See William Tudor (ed.), Deacon Tudor's Diary (Boston, 1896).

3. Henderson was admitted in 1786 from the Tenth Church, where he had served as a deacon.



VS II (1) - "1659 [illegible] N. 1 now 1785 [deduct] 1659 passed off 126 years." Membership, 1663-1741.

VS FRAG (79) - Three fragmentary leaves, with some 17<sup>th</sup> century baptisms and admissions.

CR I (3) - "1674 [sic] 1685. Book No. 1½." 1673-1685.<sup>1</sup>

CR II (4) - "1689 to 1716. Book No 2 Second Church Records from 1689 to 1717."<sup>2</sup>

CR III (5<sup>1</sup>) - "1717 1741. Book No 3 Second Church Records from 1717 to 1741."

CR IV (6) - "1741 1816. Book No 4 Second Church Records from 1741 to 1816."

VS III (7) - "1768 1816. Book No 5 Form of Admissions into Second Church and Record of Marriages and Deaths 1768 to 1816."

VS IV (8) - "Old North or Second Church June 5, [illegible] Baptisms & Admissions to 1741." Admissions, 1655-1747, 1768-1808; baptisms, 1689-1741.<sup>3</sup>

VS COPY REG A - "Records Second Church Boston 1676-1740." Baptisms and admissions, 1676-1740; owners of covenant, 1692-1741. Owned and held by the City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.

1. "It must needs be acknowledged, that there hath bin a great defect as to y<sup>e</sup> Administration of Government in this church, in that although this Second Church in Boston hath bin constituted now 23 years & more, yet no church Booke hath bin made use of wherein church votes, the Admission & Dismission of members, Baptisms, Censures &c should have bin recorded, The neglect whereof for so long a time hath caused things to be so farr out of order, that I find it difficult, yea impossible, to [restore?] to that state w<sup>ch</sup> is desirable." CR I (3), p. 1.

2. Some miscellaneous marriage records were published by Jeremiah Colburn, "Marriages in Boston, Mass. from the Original Certificates of the Clergymen Officiating," NEHGR, XXXIV (1880), 94-96 (covers 1701, 1715).

3. A note on p. 27 remarks that most of the vital statistics for 1741-1768 were lost during the Revolutionary War.



VS COPY REG B - "Records & Index Second Church Boston 1741-1816." (Flyleaf: "Records of Admissions and Baptisms of the Second Church Boston. 1741 to 1816.") As described, together with owners of the covenant. Owned and held by the City Registrar.

VS V (No number) - "1794 Church Book." Church membership, 1786-1815; compiled in 1794 by John Lathrop and carried through 1815.

CR V (9) - "1816 1833. Second Church Records." 1816-1833, with membership lists back to 1775.

CR VI (10) - "1833 1872. Records."

CR VII (14) - "1844 1899. Records Second Church." Secretarial transcript of church meetings, 1844-1899, overlapping CR VI.

Miscellaneous church records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1662-1676, 1711-1741, 1734-1812, 1812-1896, 1895-1916; Church and Society Committee Records, 1801-1824, 1823-1845, 1845-1872, 1872-1897.

PROP I (12) - "1719 1803. 1719 Proprietors The New Brick Church Book of Records." Proprietors' records of Seventh (New Brick) Church, 1719-1779; of the merged churches, 1779-1803.

PROP II (19) - "1804 1845. N 2 Proprietors Records from May 3, 1804 to 1845."

PROP III (20) - "1845 1873. Second Church Proprietors Records."

PROP IV (18) - "1873 1889. Second Church Proprietors Record."

Miscellaneous proprietors records: Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1774-1788, 1791-1806, 1806-1822, 1822-1836, 1832-1895; Pew Deeds, 1804-1810, 1815-1823, 1823-1828, 1828-1840, 1834-1874.



## BOSTON, Third (C).

The church was gathered by persons seceding from Boston's First Church on May 12, 1669; its Society was organized in 1735. The church was incorporated as the Old South Church on March 26, 1845; the Old South Society was incorporated in 1859.

Ministers:	Thomas Thacher	(inst. 1669/70; d. 1678)
	Samuel Willard	(inst. 1678; d. 1707)
	Ebenezer Pemberton	(ord. 1700; d. 1717/18)
	Joseph Sewall, D.D.	(ord. 1713; d. 1769)
	Thomas Prince	(ord. 1718; d. 1758)
	Alexander Cumming	(inst. 1761; d. 1763)
	Samuel Blair, D.D.	(inst. 1766; dism. 1769; d. 1818)
	John Bacon	(ord. 1771; dism. 1775; d. 1820)
	John Hunt	(ord. 1771; d. 1775)
	Joseph Eckley, D.D.	(ord. 1779; d. 1811)

Ruling elder: Deacon Edward Raynsford<sup>1</sup> (e. 1669; ord. 1669/70; d. 1680)

Deacons:	Deacon Jacob Eliot	(e. 1669; ord. 1669/70; d. 1693)
	Peter Bracket	(e. 1669; ord. 1669/70; d. 1688)
	Capt. Theophilus Frarye	(e. 1684 ?; ord. 1685; d. 1700)
	Nathaniel Williams <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1693; d. 1714)
	Capt. James Hill	(e. 1693; d. 1720/21)
	Capt. Samuel Checkley	(e. 1693, refused; e. 1700-1703; d. 1738)
	Bartholomew Green	(e. 1719; d. 1732)
	Daniel Henchman	(e. 1719; d. 1761)
	Jonathan Simpson	(e. 1733; d. 1763)

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1. Raynsford was summarily dismissed from the diaconate of Boston's First Church in 1668/69 for his opposition to the settlement over that church of Rev. John Davenport, as was Deacon Jacob Eliot.

2. Described as "Captain" by Sewall, "Diary," cited in Hamilton A. Hill, History of the Old South Church (Third Church) Boston 1669-1884 (Boston and New York, 1890), II, p. 296. Apparently Williams received the title some time before 1694, but after election to the diaconate.



Thomas Hubbard	(e. 1739; res. 1764; d. 1773)
Samuel Sewall	(e. 1763; res. 1770; d. 1771)
David Jeffries	(e. 1763; d. 1785)
William Phillips	(e. 1764; res. and rem. 1793; d. 1804)
Jonathan Mason	(e. 1770; d. 1798)
Thomas Dawes	(e. 1786; d. 1809)
Samuel Salisbury	(e. 1794; d. 1818)
William Phillips, Jr. <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1794; d. 1827)

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

Not listed below, but useful for certain phases of the church's history are "Letter-Book of Samuel Sewall [1672-1734]," MHSC, 6th Ser., I (1886), II (1888); "Diary of Samuel Sewall. 1674-1729," op. cit., 5th Ser., V (1878), VI (1879), VII (1882); "Diary of Jeremiah Bumstead, 1722-1727," NEHGR, X (1861), 193-204, 305-315; "Diary of the Rev. Thomas Prince, 1737," CSMP, XIX (1916-1917), 331-364; "A Journal Kept During the Time Y<sup>e</sup> Boston Was Shut Up in 1775-6. By Timothy Newell, Esqr., One of the Select Men of the Town," MHSC, 4th Ser., I (1852), 261-276.

CR NARRATIVE YALE - "Third Church Narrative, 1667-1674," an account of the events 1667-1674 compiled ca. 1691 by a committee (Samuel Sewall, Jacob Eliot, Theophilus Frarye, Joshua Scottow) at the request of the church. The "Narrative" was evidently prepared in duplicate; Wisner's 1830 History of the Old South Church mentions finding two leaves among miscellaneous church papers. The Yale University Library copy, lacking only p. 1, was copied for Hamilton A. Hill during the winter of 1885-1886, and incorporated by him in his History, I, pp. 11-202 (see CR PUB). This MS owned and held by Yale University Library, as part of the Ezra Stiles papers; it now lacks pp. 1 and 87.

CR NARRATIVE YALE COPY HILL - MISSING, the above-noted 1885-1886 copy made for Hill.

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1. Hamilton A. Hill, "William Phillips and William Phillips, Father and Son, 1722-1827," NEHGR, XXXIX (1885), 109-118.



CR I - "Old South Church." 1669-1766. The back of the book contains records of the church-and-congregation (the Society); see SR I below.<sup>1</sup>

CR I COPY - "Records of O.S. Church Copy of First Volume." (Flyleaf: "The Records of the Old South Church, in Boston. A copy of the first volume, comprising from 1669 to 1766. Containing also, the first Records of the Church and Congregation, being from 1735 to 1767. 1858.") Copy of CR I - SR I, made in 1858.

CR II - "Church Minutes." 1768-1816.

CR II COPY - "Record O.S. Church Copy of Second Volume." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Old South Church in Boston Volume 2. 1768 to 1816. Copied from the original volume 1860.") Copy made in 1860.

CR III - "Old South Church Records." 1817-1854.

CR I - II - III INDEX - "Index to Records. Vols. 1. 2. 3." (Flyleaf: "Index A to the First three volumes of the Records of Old South Church in Boston.") Topical index, undated.

CR IV - "Records" (binding title), "Old South Church" (cover title). 1855-1888.

CR V - "Old South Church." 1888-1907.

CR PUB - Hamilton A. Hill. History of the Old South Church (Third Church) Boston 1669-1884. Boston and New York, 1890. Two vols.

In first volume, "Preface," v-vi, Hill notes that his History contains a complete publishment of all church records and society records through 1821, and excerpts therefrom, 1821-1884. It should be noted however that Hill occasionally omits naming the subjects of disciplinary proceedings, and that he omits the vital statistics which were published elsewhere in 1883 (cf. VS PUB).

VS BAP I - "Old South Church." Baptisms, 1669-1875; some minor lacunae.

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1. Some miscellaneous marriage records were published by Jeremiah Colburn, "Marriages in Boston, Mass. from the Original Certificates of the Clergymen Officiating," NEHGR, XXXIV (1880), 94-96 (covers 1702, 1742-1743).



VS BAP II - "Baptisms, From 1857, September 27<sup>th</sup>." Chronological and alphabetical baptismal lists, 1857-1920.

VS BAP COPY REG I - "Records Old South Church Boston 1669-1875 Baptisms." Owned and held by City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.

VS BAP COPY REG II (INDEX) - "Records and Index Old South Church Boston 1669-1875." (Flyleaf: "Index to the Records of Baptisms of Old South Church Boston 1669 to 1875.") Owned and held by City Registrar.

VS ADM I - "Admissions Old South Church." Admissions to full church membership, 1669-1854; owners of the covenant, 1669-1814. Minor lacunae.

VS ADM II (INDEX) - "Alphabetical List of Members." 1669-1855.

VS ADM COPY REG I - "Records & Index Old South Church Boston 1669-1833." (Flyleaf: "Records of Admissions and Full Communions of the Old South Church Boston From 1669 to 1833.") Owned and held by the City Registrar.

VS ADM III - "List of Members of Old South Church January 1<sup>st</sup> 1855 as p<sup>r</sup> Catalogue published at that time & those who have been added since." Church membership as of 1855, with additions through 1923; chronological and alphabetical listings.

VS MAR I - "Marriages." (Flyleaf: "Record of Marriages solemnized by Reverend Joseph Eckley D.D. Pastor of the Old South Church in Marlborough Street Boston. Collected & arranged from the Town Clerk's Certificates of publication on file, and the original Memorandums made thereon in the handwriting of Rev. Doct. Eckley, certifying the Marriages.") 1780-1882.

VS MAR I DUP - "Marriages." 1808-1839.

VS MAR/FUNR II - "Funerals." 1895-1918; funerals, 1895-1920.

VS PUB - 1669-1882 An Historical Catalogue of the Old South Church (Third Church) Boston. Boston, 1883.



Miscellaneous church records: Church Committee Records, 1855-1897; records of a joint stock company organized by church members for charitable purposes, 1734-1771; records of the Union Church of Essex Street, which merged with Old South in 1920; financial records of the Berkley Temple and Berkley Street Society.

It is difficult to arrange the Society's books in chronological sequence, since there are three overlapping types of records: Society Records, books containing records of the Society and its Standing Committee, and records of the Standing Committee alone.

SR I - "Old South Church." This is the back of the book designated above as CR I. Subtitle: "This Book belongs to the South Church in Boston." Records of the church-and-congregation (Society), 1735-1767.

SR II - "Society's Minutes." Church-and-congregation records, 1768-1802.

S COM & SR III - "Votes Orders & Proceedings of the South Chh & Congregation In Marlborough Street Boston." Standing Committee records and some church-and-congregation (Society) votes, 1735-1819.

S COM & SR IV - Records of the Society and of the Standing Committee, 1787-1823.

S COM V - "Old South Records." Standing Committee records, 1824-1842.

S COM & SR VI - "Old South Society Records." Society records and some Standing Committee records, 1819-1845.

SR/PROP VII - "Old South Church. Inc. March 1845." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Old South Church in Boston Incorporated March 1845.") Records of pew proprietors (replacing Society), 1845-1866.

S COM VIII - "Old South Society, Incorporated March 1845." (Flyleaf: "Records of Society 1867-1876.") Standing Committee records only, 1867-1876.

S COM IX - "Standing Committee, Old South Society." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Standing Committee of the Old South Society, Boston, Begun May 29<sup>th</sup> 1876. and ended October 8, 1896.")



SR/PROP X - "Records," "Old South Society, Incorporated March 1845." Records of pew proprietors, 1877-1896.

Miscellaneous society records: Pew Deeds, 1783-1860, 1820-1865, 1845-1877, 1876-1922; Pew Accounts, 1786-1808, 1810-1844, 1845-1865.

BOSTON, French Huguenot, extinct.

The church was gathered in 1686 by persons who migrated to America following the revocation in 1685 of the Edict of Nantes. The church building was sold to the congregation of Boston's Eleventh Church in 1748, and the surviving membership by 1764 had been absorbed into the other Boston churches.

Ministers:	Laurentius Van den Bosch	(ord. in the Church of England; sett. in Boston 1685 and rem. later that year; d. 1696)
	David de Bonrepos	(sett. 1686; rem. 1688; d. 1734)
	Ezechiél Carré	(sett. 1689; rem. 1691)
	Daniel Bondet	(ord. in the Church of England; sett. 1694; rem. 1696; d. 1722)
	Pierre Daillé	(sett. 1696; d. 1715)
	André Le Mercier	(sett. 1715; ministered to French families until d. 1764)

Only a few of the lay officers of the church are known. Mentioned in a land deed of 1704/05 are elders John Tartarien, Francis Bredon, Jean Dupuis [John Dupee], and John Portree. Elder Stephen Boutineau, after the dissolution of this church, became a member of Boston's Third Church, and served on committees there until his death in 1761.



No records of the church are extant. See A. Holmes, "Memoir of the French Protestants, who Settled at Oxford, Massachusetts, A.D. 1686; with a Sketch of the Entire History of the Protestants of France," MHSC, 3rd Ser., II (1830), 1-83; E. T. Fisher (trans.), Report of a French Protestant Refugee in Boston [1687-1688] (Brooklyn, 1868); Charles C. Smith, "The French Protestants in Boston," in Justin Winsor (ed.), Memorial History of Boston (Boston, 1880-1881), II, pp. 249-268; Worthington C. Ford, "Ezechiel Carre and the French Church in Boston," MHSP, LII (1919), 121-132; Percival Merritt, "The French Protestant Church in Boston," CSMP, XXVI (1924-1926), 323-348, privately reprinted (Cambridge, 1927).

#### BOSTON, King's Chapel (U).

The Proprietors of King's Chapel organized on June 15, 1686. Although the church relinquished its connection with the Church of England about the time of the Revolutionary War, and adopted a revised prayer book embodying anti-Trinitarian sentiments in 1785, it retained a quasi-episcopalian form of government, so that it falls outside the realm of this study.

The records of King's Chapel are church property, and are deposited with the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston. Copies of the vital statistics are held by the City Registrar, Boston. Of the several published histories available, the best-known is Henry Wilder Foote's three-volume Annals of King's Chapel from the Puritan Age to the Present Day (Boston, 1882, 1896, 1940).

#### BOSTON, Fourth (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on Dec. 12, 1698, and was variously known as the Brattle Street Church, the Brattle Square Church, and because of its publication in 1699 of



a platform of practice differing from that of the other Puritan churches, was frequently referred to as "The Manifesto Church." The undertakers were originally organized in 1697, and the Proprietors of the Church in Brattle Square incorporated in 1822. In 1871, a new church building was erected, but proved financially so burdensome that in 1876 the building was sold, and church and society became extinct.

Ministers: Benjamin Colman, D.D. (ord. 1699 England; sett. here 1699; d. 1747)  
 Eliphalet Adams (sett. as assistant 1701-1704; d. 1753)  
 William Cooper, D.D. (ord. 1716; d. 1743)  
 Samuel Cooper, D.D. (sett. 1744; ord. 1746; d. 1783)  
 Peter Thacher, D.D. (inst. 1785; d. 1802)  
 Joseph S. Buckminster (ord. 1805; d. 1812)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Thomas Brattle (e. 1699; res. 1701)  
 Capt. (later Major) Benjamin Davis (e. 1699; res. 1702)  
 Richard Draper (e. 1701; d. 1729)  
 John Kilby (e. 1702; d. 1722)  
 Benjamin Gibson (e. 1717; m. 1745)  
 Jacob Parker (e. 1722; m. 1724)  
 John Phillips (e. 1729; m. 1745)  
 Capt. Ebenezer Storer<sup>1</sup> (d. 1761)  
 Ebenezer Storer (m. 1766; res. 1773; d. 1807)

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1. "[John] Boyle's Journal of Occurrences in Boston, 1759-1778," NEHGR, LXXXIV (1930), 142-171, 248-272, 357-382, LXXXV (1931), 5-28, 117-133, makes frequent reference to the Fourth Church, of which Boyle was a member, and under date of 1761 records the death of the elder Deacon Storer. The Deacon Storer who resigned his church office in 1773 was the son of Capt. Storer; from 1771 until his death in 1807, he also served as Treasurer of Harvard College.



Daniel Bell	(res. 1786)
Timothy Newall	(m. 1788-1790)
Capt. John Gore	(e. 1788)
Samuel Barrett	(e. 1788; res. 1792)
James Lanman	(e. 1788; rem. 1804)
Nathaniel Hall	(e. 1793; rem. 1804)
Moses Grant	(e. 1793; m. 1805)
Peter Thacher	(e. 1804)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are held by the City Clerk, Boston.

Not included in the inventory, but helpful in reconstructing the church's history are the Boyle Journal (see above), and Thaddeus W. Harris and John L. Sibley, "Memoranda from the Rev. William Cooper's Interleaved Almanacs," NEHGR, XXX (1876), 435-441, XXXI (1877), 49-55.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1699-1804. A memorandum, VS I BAP COPY REG, p. v, says: "March 28, 1898. The original records are now in the custody of the City Clerk."<sup>2</sup>

VS I COPY REG - "Records & Index Brattle St. Church Boston 1700-1803." (Flyleaf: "Records of Marriages and Admissions of Brattle Street Church Boston 1700 to 1803.") Admissions, 1699-1802; marriages, 1700-1802. City Registrar.

VS I BAP COPY REG - "Records & Index Brattle Street Church Boston 1699-1804 Bapt. & Marr." (Flyleaf: "Records of Baptisms, Marriages and Admissions of Brattle Street Church Boston.") Baptisms only, 1699-1804. City Registrar.

CR II - Church Records, 1804-1846. This book has been disassembled and is currently comprised of the following loose parts: church records, 1804-1846; baptisms, 1805-1836; marriages, 1805-1836, 1839, 1850-1852; admissions, 1805-1835; deaths, 1805-1834.

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1. Sometimes given as "Landman."

2. Some miscellaneous marriage records were published by William S. Appleton, "Marriages in Boston, Mass. from the Original Certificates of the Clergymen Officiating," NEHGR, XXXIV (1880), 190-191 (covers 1708, 1719).



CR PUB - The Manifesto Church Records of the Church in Brattle Square, Boston, with Lists of Communicants, Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals, 1699-1872 (Boston, 1902). A combination of sketchy records, ministers' diaries, etc.

SR I - "Votes & Proceedings of the Church & Congregation ... Meeting in Brattle Street BOSTON." Society records, 1755-1805.

SR II - "Nº 2." (Flyleaf: "Proceedings of the Society in Brattle Street, from August 12, 1805.") 1805-1828.

Miscellaneous society records: Standing Committee, 1805-1821, 1821-1832, 1866-1871; Treasurer's Accounts, 1844-1874; Pew Deeds, 1829-1854; Pew Tax Accounts, 1854-1868.

BOSTON, Fifth (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on May 5, 1714 as the Fifth or New North Church, the latter name indicating its derivation from Boston's Second (Old North) Church. The Members of the New North Society were incorporated in 1803. In 1863, the Fifth Church and Society undertook to merge with Boston's Bulfinch-Street Church and Society, an action concluded with the dissolution of the Fifth Society in 1884, although the resulting merged church itself became extinct shortly thereafter.

Ministers:	John Webb	(ord. 1714; d. 1750)
	Peter Thacher	(inst. as senior pastor 1719/20; d. 1738/39)
	Andrew Eliot, D.D.	(ord. 1742; d. 1778)
	John Eliot	(ord. 1779; d. 1813)

Ruling elders:	John Baker	(e. 1720; ord. 1721; m. 1746)
	Deacon Caleb Lyman	(e. 1720; ord. 1721; d. 1743)
	Deacon John Dixwell	(e. 1720; ord. 1721; d. 1725)
	Deacon Samuel Barrett	(e. 1725; ord. 1726; d. 1736)



	Deacon Joshua Cheever	(e. 1736; ord. 1737; m. 1750)
	William Parkman <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1743; d. 1775)
Deacons:	Caleb Lyman <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1714; elev. to ruling elder 1720; d. 1743)
	John Barrett	(e. 1714; ord. 1721)
	John Dixwell	(e. 1717; elev. to ruling elder 1720; d. 1725)
	Joseph Webb	(e. 1720; ord. 1721; m. 1739)
	Joshua Cheever	(e. 1720; ord. 1721; elev. to ruling elder 1736; m. 1750)
	Samuel Barrett	(e. 1723; ord. 1724; elev. to ruling elder 1725; d. 1736)
	Ephraim Hunt	(e. and ord. 1726; m. 1736)
	Josiah Langdon	(e. 1736; ord. 1737; d. ca. 1742)
	Samuel Grant	(e. 1742; m. 1776)
	John Barrett	(e. 1742; m. 1776)
	Samuel Holland	(e. 1752; res. 1774; d. ca. 1793)
	Gibbins Sharp	(e. 1774; m. 1805)
	Capt. Samuel Barrett	(e. 1776; d. 1798)
	Capt. John Simpkins	(e. 1776; d. 1831)
	Joseph Kettell	(e. 1798; d. 1815)

1. Francis Parkman's A Survey of God's Providence in the Establishment of The Churches of New-England: A Sermon Delivered in Boston, November 27, 1814, on the Completion of a Century Since the Settlement of the New-North Church (Boston, 1814) claims Ruling Elder William Parkman was the last to be elected to that office in any of the Boston churches.

2. Ephraim Eliot's Historical Notices of the New North Religious Society in the Town of Boston, with Anecdotes of the Reverend Andrew and John Eliot &c. &c. (Boston, 1822) holds the first three deacons elected were Robert Comby, Edward Proctor and James Clark; however, as he notes, they were elected deacons of New North before being dismissed from Old North, a procedure sufficiently unusual so that Rev. Cotton Mather refused to grant the three dismissals. New North then elected its first deacons, Lyman and Barrett.



Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the City Clerk, Boston.

CR I - "Records of the New-North-Church, in North-Street, Boston. Gathered Oct. 20, 1714." (Flyleaf: "The Records of the New-North-Church in North-street, Boston. Gathered, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. 1714.") 1714-1805; vital statistics uneven. Extremely detailed coverage of church disciplinary cases and ecclesiastical councils to which Fifth Church sent delegates.

CR I ABSTRACT - "Record The New North Church Boston 1714." (Flyleaf: "Handbook. Records of New North Church 1714/1799.") An abstract of CR I's running records, followed by an alphabetical list of names figuring in the vital statistics of CR I. City Registrar.

VS I - "Records of the New North Church, Births, Deaths and Marriages 1714 to 1797." Vital statistics copied from CR I: baptisms, 1714-1797; marriages, 1742-1797; owners of covenant, 1714-1813; admissions to full membership, 1714-1820; deaths, 1792-1797. City Registrar.

VS IA - "Record New No. Church Boston 1800 to 1820." (Flyleaf: "Admissions and Covenant in the New North Church Boston. 1800 to 1820.") Vital statistics: owners of covenant, 1800-1813; admissions to full membership, 1800-1820. City Registrar.

CR II - "New North Church Records." (Flyleaf: "The New North Church Records Volume the Third<sup>1</sup> Commencing with the Ministry of the Revd Francis Parkman who was Ordained December the 8<sup>th</sup> 1813.") Church records, 1821-1859/1870; running records 1813-1821 lost because pp. 1-22 of this book have been removed. Vital statistics from 1813.

VS II - "Records & Index New North Church Boston 1813-1863 Bapt., Marr. Deaths." (Flyleaf: "Records of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths of the New North Church, Boston. 1813 to 1863.") Vital statistics copied from CR II: baptisms, 1813-1862; marriages, 1813-1862; deaths, 1814-1863. City Registrar.

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1. The phrase "Volume the Third" suggests that a now-lost volume was begun in 1805, when CR I's pages were filled, and discontinued when Rev. Parkman opened his pastorate in 1813.



BOSTON, Sixth (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on April 15, 1719 as the Sixth or New South Church. The Proprietors (frequently referred to in the records as "the Society") were incorporated in 1803.

The years 1866-1868 saw the Sixth Church merging with the Suffolk-Street Chapel and the Concord-Street Chapel, but the body thus formed did not long survive the merger.

Ministers:	Samuel Checkley	(ord. 1719; d. 1769)
	Penuel Bowen	(ord. 1766; disp. 1772; d. 1788)
	Joseph Howe	(ord. 1773; d. 1775)
	Oliver Everett	(ord. 1782; disp. 1792; d. 1802)
	John T. Kirkland	(ord. 1794; disp. to presi- dency of Harvard College 1810; d. 1840)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Henry Hill <sup>1</sup>	(m. 1719; d. 1726)
	Deacon Daniel Powning <sup>2</sup>	(m. 1728; d. 1735)
	Daniel Loring	(e. 1726)
	Samuel Adams	(e. 1726; d. 1748)
	Samuel Bridgham	(e. 1730/31; cta. 1750; d. 1759)
	Richard Checkley	(e. 1736; cta. 1739)
	Thomas Hill	(e. 1742; d. 1778)
	Samuel Hewes	(e. 1748; cta. 1764)
	Richard Boynton	(e. 1764; m. 1788)
	John Preston	(e. 1776; m. 1793)
	Samuel Dyer	(e. 1778; disp. 1782)
	Daniel Bates	(e. 1782; d. 1812)
	Joseph Field	(e. 1796; m. 1835)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the City Clerk, City Hall, Boston.

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1. Samuel Checkley notes in CR I, p. 1: "N.B. Mr. Henry Hill was chosen by the Church unto y<sup>e</sup> Deacon's office before my Call and Ordination."

2. Powning transferred his membership from Boston's Third Church to the Sixth in 1720, and probably served as a deacon here from the time of his admission.



Not mentioned below, but useful is "Diary of the Rev. Samuel Checkley, 1735," CSMP, XII (1908-1909), 270-306.

CR I - "New South Church." (Flyleaf: "The New South Church began 1719.")

CR I COPY - "Boston New South Church Records." Undated MS copy of church running records, 1719-1826.

VS COPY REG - "Records & Index New South Church Boston 1719-1811 Marriages." (Flyleaf: "Records of Marriages, Full Communion, Baptismal Covenants and not to Full Communion, of the New South Church, Boston, 1719-1811.") City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.

VS BAP COPY REG - "Records & Index New South Church Boston 1719-1812." (Flyleaf: "Records of Baptisms of New South Church, Boston. 1719 to 1812.") City Registrar.

CR II - "New South Church Records." Church records and admissions, 1811-1866.

VS II - "New South Church and Society Records." Baptisms, 1811-1866; marriages, 1811-1866; deaths, 1825-1866.

SR I - Society Records, 1715-1767.

SR II - "New South Society [Records] from December 1767 to February 1781."

SR III - "Records belonging to the New South Society 1781 to 1803."

SR IV - "Proprietors." Society records, 1803-1850.

SR V - "Records. New South Society."

Miscellaneous church and society records: accounts of Church's charitable income and disbursements, 1812-1824; Society Committee Records, 1781-1803 (in SR III), 1803-1824; Society Assessors' Accounts, 1803-1816, 1808-1812, 1812-1820; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1808-1812, 1815-1821, 1821-1833, 1833-1837, 1837-1841, 1846-1866; Pew Deeds, 1794-1813, 1844-1868.



BOSTON, Seventh (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on May 23, 1722 as the Seventh or New Brick Church, its Society having been organized in 1719 by persons seceding from Boston's Fifth Church. In 1779, following the destruction of the meetinghouse of Boston's Second Church by British troops, the Seventh and Second Churches merged into one, retaining the title of the older body.

Ministers:	William Waldron	(ord. 1722; d. 1727)
	William Welsted	(ord. 1728; d. 1753)
	Ellis Gray	(ord. 1738; d. 1753)
	Ebenezer Pemberton, D.D.	(inst. 1754; d. 1777)

Ruling elders: Deacon James Halsey (e. 1735; m. 1763)

Deacons:	Solomon Townsend	(e. 1723; m. 1727)
	William Lee	(e. 1723; d. 1769)
	James Halsey	(e. 1733; elev. to ruling elder 1735; m. 1763)
	Ebenezer Bridge	(e. 1738; accepted 1742; d. 1746)
	George Holmes	(e. 1747)
	John Tudor	(e. 1747; m. 1786)
	Thomas Greenough	(m. 1757; d. 1785)
	Jonathan Brown <sup>1</sup>	(m. 1769; d. 1785)

Because the records are scattered, it is necessary to include minor as well as major items in the inventory. Not listed below, but of considerable interest is William Tudor (ed.), Deacon Tudor's Diary (Boston, 1896), covering the years 1732-1793.

CR I - "The New Brick Church Book 1722. Records of those who own'd the Covenant The Names of those Baptised, &c." (Flyleaf: "This book belongs to that Church of God wch Worship In the North Brick Meeting House, Boston 1722.") Church records, 1722-1754; vital statistics uneven: baptisms, 1722-1775; owners of covenant, 1728-1757; admissions to full membership, 1722-1773. Owned and held by the City Clerk, City Hall, Boston.

VS I COPY REG - "Records & Index New Brick Church Boston 1722-1776." (Flyleaf: "Records and Index of Baptisms,

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1. Deacons Tudor, Greenough, and Brown continued in that office following the merger in 1779.



Admissions, Owned Covenants, of New Brick Church, Boston. 1722 to 1776.") Vital statistics alphabetically arranged. Owned and held by the City Registrar.

VS I COPY PUB - Thomas B. Wyman, "New Brick Church, Boston List of Persons connected therewith from 1722 to 1775. Compiled from the Records," NEHGR, XVIII (1864), 237-240, 337-344, XIX (1865), 230-235, 320-324.

CT I - "The Church's Book -- Wherein the Communion Stock Dr. and Cr. is Enter'd -- From 1722 -- to 1744 when [illegible] to Cambridge." Church treasurer's accounts, 1722-1776; scattered church votes. This is item No. 5A, Boston Second Church Records, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

SR I - "1719 1803. 1719 Proprietors The New Brick Church Book of Records." Proprietors' (frequently called "Society") records, 1719 through the merger to 1803. Item No. 12, Boston Second Church Records, Massachusetts Historical Society.

ST I - "1747 1752. Church Book 1747. of Accounts." Two sets of accounts, 1747-1754. Item No. 12A, Boston Second Church Records, Massachusetts Historical Society.

ST II - "1755 1774 Book No 2 Pew Acc<sup>s</sup> from July 13, 1755 to July 1774 Account with the Treasurer from July 14 1755 to August 1774 Lecture Money 1755 to 1774." Item No. 23, Boston Second Church Records, Massachusetts Historical Society.

ST III - "1774-1788 The 2d Churches Book of Accounts 1774." Item No. 25, Boston Second Church Records, Massachusetts Historical Society.

S COM - "The New Bricks Committe Book July 14<sup>th</sup>. 1761." Records of the society's "prudentials committee," 1761-1800. Owned and held by the City Clerk.



## BOSTON, Arlington Street Church (U).

The church was gathered in 1729 by Irish immigrants whose background prompted them to employ the presbyterian form of church government. The church was then popularly known as "the church of the Presbyterian Strangers," and (because of its location) "the Presbyterian Church in Long Lane."

In August of 1786, the church voted to adopt congregational polity, and in the following year settled the Arminian Jeremy Belknap as its minister, foreshadowing the gradual shift to a Unitarian theology.

The Proprietors of the Meeting House in Federal Street (as Long Lane was now named) were incorporated in 1805. In 1862, this body was reincorporated as the Proprietors of the Arlington Street Church (the present location).

Ministers:	John Moorhead	(sett. 1729; inst. 1730; d. 1773)
	Robert Annan	(inst. 1783; dism. 1786; rem. to Pa.)
	Jeremy Belknap, D.D.	(inst. 1787; d. 1798)
	John S. Popkin	(ord. 1799; dism. 1802; d. 1852)
	William Ellery Channing, S.T.D.	(ord. 1803; d. 1842)

Ruling elders: the church employed such officers during its presbyterian phase, but due to the scarcity of early records, their names are unknown.

Deacons: again, the records for the presbyterian period are of no help. The names of three deacons for the congregational period are known:

William McNeil	(m. 1786)
Francis Wright	(m. 1786-1808)
Henry Hunter	(e. 1794; d. 1808)

When the Rev. John Moorhead died in 1773, three members of the congregation took over the management of the church and society affairs. Because they proceeded in a somewhat high-handed manner, on April 5, 1774, they were impeached by the Proprietors, and dismissed from their trust. One



of the three, William McAlpine, refused to relinquish the records, taking them with him to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and thence to Glasgow, Scotland where he died in 1788. These records are presumed lost.<sup>1</sup>

The extant records, unless otherwise noted, are owned by the church and deposited with the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

VS I & II - "A List of all y<sup>e</sup> Children & Adult persons to whom I have administer'd Baptism Since my Settlement in Boston in y<sup>e</sup> year 1730 March 31st. Both in Town & Country." 1730-1865. The reverse is titled "A List of Marriages from my Settlement March y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> [sic] 1730. John Moorhead." 1730-1865. Owned by Boston's Second Church, and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society as Item No. 85 of the Second Church Record Collection.

VS I & II COPY - "A List of all the Adult persons, and infants, to whom Baptism has been administred by the Revd Mr. John Moorhead, as taken from his own Manuscripts, and faithfully Transcribed by Hector McNeill, for the benifit of the Presbyterian Society in Boston." 1730-1741. The reverse is titled "A Rigester of Marriages in the Presbyterian form kept by the Revd. Mr. John Moorhead, and faithfully Transcribed from his Original Manuscripts, for the benefit of the Society, by Hector McNeill." 1730-1773, with additions to 1784.

VS I & II COPY A REG - "Records & Index First Presbyterian Church Boston 1734-1784. Bapt. & Marr." (Flyleaf: "Records of Baptisms and Marriages in The First Presbyterian Church, Boston. 1730-1784.") Owned and held by the City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.

VS I COPY B REG - "Records & Index First Presbyterian Church Boston 1730-1865 Baptisms." (Flyleaf: "Records of Baptisms with Index in the First Presbyterian Church. Boston. 1730 to 1865.") Owned and held by the City Registrar.

VS II COPY B REG - "Records & Index First Presbyterian Church Boston 1730-1865 Marriages." (Flyleaf: "Records Marriages and Index in the First Presbyterian Church. Boston. 1730 to 1865.") Owned and held by the City Registrar.

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1. See Harriet E. Johnson, "The Early History of Arlington Street Church," UHSP, V (1937), ii, 15-36.



CR I - Church Records, 1786-1794.

CR II - "Church Matters." Church records, 1786, 1799-1813; membership and admissions, 1787-1814; owners of the covenant, 1803-1811; deaths, 1787-1813.

PROP I - "Records." Records of the Proprietors of the Meeting House, 1803-1861.

Miscellaneous records: ten boxes of calendared papers relating to church and proprietors (frequently called "Society"), 1786-1842; five volumes of Proprietors Committee Records, 1805-1862; Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1814-1861, 1860-1875; Pew Assessments, 1809-1811, 1813-1816, 1822-1829; Pew Accounts, 1804-1809, 1810-1813, 1814-1822, 1822-1825; Pew Deeds, 1803-1809, 1810-1856, 1834-1859.

BOSTON, Eighth (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on Nov. 14, 1732, and soon became known as the Hollis Street Church. The Proprietors of the Meeting House were incorporated in 1809. The church itself was incorporated on Feb. 14, 1884. In October of 1887, the church merged with Boston's South Congregational Church and Society, which in 1925 sold its property and merged with Boston's First Church.

Ministers:	Mather Byles, D.D.	(ord. 1732; disp. 1776; d. 1788)
	Ebenezer Wight	(ord. 1778; disp. 1788; d. 1821)
	Samuel West	(inst. 1789; d. 1808)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Clough	(e. 1732; d. 1746-1753)
	Joseph Payson	(e. 1732; d. 1746)
	John Eliot	(e. 1742; cta. 1769-1773)



Benjamin Church	(e. 1747; d. 1781) <sup>1</sup>
Caleb Davis	(e. 1769; d. 1797)
Thomas Bayley	(m. 1808; cta. 1808-1811)
William Brown	(e. 1783; d. 1816)
Elisha Ticknor	(e. 1798; res. and dism. to Old South Church, Boston 1808) <sup>2</sup>

The records are owned and held by several organizations, as noted below.

CR I - "The Records of the New Church at the South End of Boston. Under the Pastoral Care of M. Byles. 1732." Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

CR II - "Records of the Church in Hollis Street, Boston. Volume II, from March 4<sup>th</sup> 1753, to March 1st, 1789. Byles and Wight. These have been copied into the large book. & properly clasped." 1753-1789. Massachusetts Historical Society.

CR III - "Records of the Church in Hollis Street Boston." 1788-1809. Andover-Harvard Theological Library, Cambridge.

CR I-II-III-IV COPY REG - "Records Hollis St. Church Boston 1733-1847." Copy of church records, 1732-1847, with vital statistics: baptisms, 1733-1846; owners of covenant, 1733-1810; admissions, 1732-1846; marriages, 1789-1846; deaths, 1809-1846. City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.

VS I-II-III-IV COPY REG - "Records [of the Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, also Admissions] & Index Hollis Street Church Boston 1732-1847." Copy of vital statistics, 1732-1847. City Registrar.

VS I-II-III-IV COPY REG INDEX - "Records & Index Hollis St Church Boston 1732-1849." Alphabetical index to above item. City Registrar.

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1. See George E. Bowman, "The Settlement of the Estate of Deacon Benjamin Church of Boston," MD, VIII (1906), 54-58, X (1908), 119-122.

2. A Deacon Cheever removed from Charlestown to the Hollis Street Church about 1803, but evidently was not considered a deacon of the Hollis Street Church.



CR V COPY REG - "Records Hollis St Church Boston 1862-1887." Copy of Church records, 1862-1885, and vital statistics to 1887. City Registrar.

SR I - MISSING, Society Records to 1782.

SR II - "Hollis Street Society Records. Vol. II." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church [sic] in Hollis Street 1782.") 1782-1809. First Church, Boston.

SR III - "Records of Hollis Street Society." 1809-1845. City Clerk.

SR IV - "Records Hollis Street Society." 1846-1884. City Clerk.

SR V - "Hollis Street Church, Proprietors' Records 1884." 1884-1887. City Clerk.

Miscellaneous church and society records are owned and held by the following: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1806-1807, 1810-1811, 1809-1862 (First Church); Society Committee Records, 1862-1879 (Historical Library, Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston); Society Committee Accounts, 1852-1867 (First Church); Pew Deeds, 1788-1808, 1808-1810, 1811-1824, 1847-1883 (First Church); Pew Assessments, 1771-1781, 1782-1805, 1807-1814, 1827-1848, 1851-1863, 1861-1881, 1884-1886 (First Church); Sexton's Records (Pew Rents), 1835-1852 (First Church).

BOSTON, Ninth (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on Jan. 3, 1737 as The West Church, popularly known as the Lynde Street Church, of Boston. The West Boston Society was incorporated in 1806. The church disbanded in 1889, due to a sharp decline in its membership.

Ministers:	William Hooper	(ord. 1737; disp. 1746; d. 1767)
	Jonathan Mayhew, D.D.	(ord. 1747; d. 1766)
	Simeon Howard, D.D.	(ord. 1767; d. 1804)



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Capt. James Gooch	(e. 1737; rem. 1739; d. 1786) <sup>1</sup>
	John Dorrall	(e. 1739; cta. 1747)
	Col. Henry Berry	(e. 1739; cta. 1758; d. 1760)
	Thomas Foster	(e. 1757; d. 1789)
	Daniel Jones	(e. 1757; d. 1800)
	Capt. Martin Gay	(e. 1773; rem. 1776; d. 1809)
	Charles Cushing, Esq.	(e. 1793; d. 1810)
	Joseph Nye, Esq.	(e. 1793; res. and rem. to Boston's Third Church 1801; d. 1816)
	John Avery, Esq.	(e. 1801; d. 1806)

The records are owned and held by several organizations, as noted below.

CR I - "Records of the West Church Boston." Church records, 1737-1741, 1758, 1770-1854; records of church and proprietors in joint meeting, 1746-1747, 1767, 1805-1806, 1837. Vital statistics: baptisms, 1737-1860; marriages, 1747-1856; owners of the covenant, 1747-1819; admission to full membership, 1737-1858. Also list of pew proprietors, 1737, 1806-1831; 1806 memoranda concerning new meetinghouse; 1809-1814 thanksgiving collection totals. City Clerk, City Hall, Boston.

CR I PUB - Set of (incomplete) page proofs; plates originally made by The Colonial Society of Massachusetts but publication project abandoned and plates for pp. 1-13, 19, 32, 36, 78, 89, 94, 97-101, 106-109, 116-119, 122, 125, 133-135 lost before proofs were struck. One copy of the proofs is owned and held by Boston Athenaeum, Boston, with letter indicating the extant plates were destroyed in 1935 after the imperfect proofs were struck.

VS I - "West Church Records." Vital statistics: baptisms, 1837-1866; marriages, 1837-1866; 1837 church membership and additions, 1838-1857; invitations to

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1. Deacon Gooch was among those who followed the Rev. Mr. Hooper into Episcopalianism in 1747, when the latter (recently reordained) returned to Boston to organize Trinity Church and become its first rector.



ecclesiastical councils, 1838-1860; one diaconal election memorandum, 1846. City Clerk.

VS II - "Records Vol. 2. West Church." Vital statistics: baptisms, 1837-1889; marriages, 1837-1895; one diaconal election memorandum, 1884. City Clerk.

VS COPY REG - "Records of West Church Boston." Vital statistics: marriages, 1747-1880; owners of the covenant, 1747-1819; admission to full membership, 1737-1858; proprietors, 1737-1837. City Registrar.

VS BAP COPY REG - "Records & Index West Church Boston 1737-1880 Baptisms." (Flyleaf: "Records of Baptisms in the West Church, Boston 1737 to 1880.") City Registrar.

VS PUB - "Records of the West Church, Boston, Mass. Baptisms, 1737-1854," NEHGR, XCI (1937), 340-354, XCII (1938), 10-28, 116-134, 242-260, 342-358, XCIII (1939), 58-66, 114-124, 250-263, 314-326, XCIV (1940), 38-47, 155-163, 290-297, 373-380. Vital statistics: baptisms, 1737-1854; admissions, 1737-1854; owners of covenant, 1747-1819.

SR I - "Records of the West Boston Society Corporation." 1806-1884. The Society is also referred to as the Proprietors of the Meeting House, and the Proprietors of Pews. City Clerk.

Miscellaneous records are owned and held as follows: By the City Clerk: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1737-1754; Society Standing Committee Records, 1806-1864; Society Treasurer's Accounts and Assessors' Records, 1807-1851; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1847-1893; Pew Deeds, 1806-1894, 1838-1894. By the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston: Society Treasurer's Accounts (copy), 1737-1754; file of calendared 19th century papers. By the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester: Pew Deeds, 1777-1781. By the Historical Library, Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston: file of loose papers. By the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston: papers relating to termination of the church's affairs, 1893.



## BOSTON, Tenth (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on May 9, 1742 by Old Lights who separated from Boston's Second Church. It was generally known as "Samuel Mather's Church," Mather being its first and only minister. On his death in 1785, in accordance with his dying wish, the surviving members of the Tenth Church reunited with the Second Church.

Minister: Samuel Mather, D.D. (inst. 1742; d. 1785)

Ruling elders and deacons: there being virtually no extant records,<sup>1</sup> very little is known of the Tenth Church's lay officers. The records of Boston's Second Church report that one Benjamin Henderson served as a deacon in the Tenth Church, that in 1786 he transferred his membership to the Second Church, and served as a deacon there until 1799. The Diary of William Bentley, D.D., Pastor of the East Church, Salem, Massachusetts (rep. Gloucester, Mass., 1962), III, p. 7 mentions a Deacon Joseph Roby of the Tenth Church. See also Justin Winsor (ed.), The Memorial History of Boston, including Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 1630-1880 (Boston, 1880-1), II, 227ff.

## BOSTON, Eleventh (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 17, 1748 by New Lights separating from the several Boston congregations, and was popularly known as "The School Street Church," and "The Rev. Andrew Croswell's Church." It disbanded soon after Croswell's death in 1785.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Some miscellaneous marriage records were published by Jeremiah Colburn, "Marriages in Boston, Mass. from the Original Certificates of the Clergymen Officiating," NEHGR, XXXIV (1880), 94-96 (covers 1743).

2. The building was sold to the Roman Catholic community in Boston, and so became the first church building to be used by members of that faith in New England.



Minister: Andrew Croswell (inst. 1748; d. 1785)

Ruling elders and deacons: there being no extant records, virtually nothing is known of the Eleventh Church's lay officers. Croswell himself published A Narrative of the Founding and Settling The New-gathered Congregational Church in Boston (Boston, 1749), which indicates that the church employed deacons, but not ruling elders. See also Justin Winsor (ed.), The Memorial History of Boston, including Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 1630-1880 (Boston, 1880-1), II, pp. 236ff.; and C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 11, 57, 97, 312.

BOSTON, Brighton, First (U), inactive.

The church was gathered on Feb. 23, 1783<sup>1</sup> as the Church in the Third (South) Precinct in Cambridge. The precinct had been incorporated in 1779, and eventually became known as the Third Parish. When the area became recognized as the town of Brighton,<sup>2</sup> the church and parish were renamed the First Church (1807) and Parish (March 1839) of Brighton.

Minister: John Foster (ord. 1784; res. 1827; d. 1829)

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1. Some authorities date the church's existence from 1734-1737 (see Emil Oberholzer, Delinquent Saints [New York, 1956], p. 355; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England [Lancaster, Mass., 1936], p. 243). But this is to confuse the inauguration of occasional "winter-preaching" at Brighton in 1734-1735, the building of a meetinghouse, and the beginning of year-round preaching in 1744, with the formal gathering of the church in 1783. See Lucius R. Paige, History of Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1630-1877 (Boston, 1877), p. 295.

2. Brighton was made a town in 1807 and annexed to Boston in 1874.



Ruling elders and deacons: the earliest records make no mention of the church's lay officers.

There are no extant records antedating 1828. The later records are owned by the church, and held by the Historical Library, Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston.

CR I - Ministerial Record, 1828-1838.

SR I - "Records of the Society of the First Parish in Brighton." 1817-1856.

SR II - Society Records, 1856-1885.

Miscellaneous records include: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1839-1889; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1818-1860; an unsigned MS history of the church, composed in 1889, which refers to the early church records as lost.

#### BOSTON, Charlestown, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 2, 1632, the First Parish being incorporated in 1803. Charlestown itself was annexed to Boston in 1874.

Ministers:	Thomas James	(ord. pastor 1632; rem. 1636; d. 1682/83)
	Zechariah Symmes	(ord. teacher 1634; d. 1670/71)
	John Harvard	(ord. 1637; d. 1638) <sup>1</sup>

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1. Richard Frothingham, Jr., The History of Charlestown, Massachusetts (Boston, 1845), p. 74, reports that Harvard was admitted to church membership on Nov. 6, 1637, but that there is no record of his ordination. See also Justin Winsor (ed.), The Memorial History of Boston, including Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 1630-1880 (Boston, 1880-1), I, p. 395. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 102, gives the date of Harvard's admission to church membership as that of his ordination, but on what authority is not known.



Thomas Allen	(ord. teacher 1639/40; rem. 1651; d. 1673)
Thomas Shepard, Jr.	(ord. teacher 1659; d. 1677)
Thomas Shepard III	(inst. pastor 1680; d. 1685)
Charles Morton	(inst. 1686; d. 1698)
Simon Bradstreet	(ord. 1698; d. 1741)
Joseph Stevens	(ord. 1713; d. 1721)
Hull Abbot	(ord. 1724; d. 1774)
Thomas Prentice	(inst. 1739; d. 1782)
Joshua Paine	(ord. 1787; d. 1788)
Jedidiah Morse, D.D.	(inst. 1789; rem. 1819; d. 1826)

Ruling elder: John Greene (adm. 1633; date of e. unknown;  
d. 1658)

Deacons: Ralph Mousall	(e. 1632 ?; d. 1657)
Robert Hale	(e. 1632 ?; d. 1659)
Thomas Lynde	(e. 1636-1651; d. 1671)
William Stittson <sup>1</sup>	(e. and ord. 1659; d. 1691)
Robert Cutler	(e. and ord. 1659; d. 1665)
John Cutler, Sr.	(ord. 1671/72; d. 1694)
Aaron Ludkin	(ord. 1671/72; d. 1694)
John Call	(e. 1694; ord. 1695)
Joseph Kettle	(e. 1694; ord. 1695)
Edmund Wilson	(e. post-1695; d. 1706) <sup>2</sup>
Jonathan Cary	(e. 1710)
Capt. Samuel Frothingham	(e. 1723; m. 1731)
Jonathan Kettle	(e. 1723; m. 1724)
Michael Brigden	(e. 1752)
Thomas Symmes	(e. 1752)
William Kettle	

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1. Sometimes given as "Stillson."

2. Wilson was admitted to church membership in 1660. He could not have been elected prior to 1695, since the deaths of Deacons Cutler and Ludkin left the church without deacons, according to the records.



John Frothingham	(e. 1763)
David Cheever	(e. 1768)
Timothy Austin	(e. 1768)
John Larkin	(e. 1787; m. 1795)
Thomas Miller	(e. 1787)
James Frothingham	(e. 1793; m. 1795)
Amos Tufts	(e. 1804)

The records are owned by the church, and unless otherwise noted, are held by The Congregational Library, Boston.

CR I - "Church Records of the 1<sup>st</sup> Church Charlestown 1631 to 1730." (Flyleaf: "The Book that belongs unto the Church in Charltowne: which Church was gathered, and did enter into church Covenant the 2<sup>d</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> month 1632.") Church records, 1632, 1658-1763; vital statistics: baptisms, 1632-1768; renewers of the covenant, 1665-1768; owners of the covenant, 1677-1697; admissions, 1632-1678; marriages, 1687-1697.<sup>1</sup>

CR I PUB NEHGR - James F. Hunnewell (ed.), "The First Record-Book of the First Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts," NEHGR, XXIII (1869), 187-191, 279-284, 435-444, XXIV (1870), 7-12, 131-136, 273-285, XXV (1871), 62-67, 147-150, 339-344, XXVI (1872), 49-54, 153-158, 249-253, XXVII (1873), 140-143, 275-280, XXVIII (1874), 120-124, 448-450, XXIX (1875), 67-70, 291-294, XXX (1876), 178-183, XXXI (1877), 78-82, 214-217, 325-328, XXXII (1878), 61-66, 169-174, 288-291, XXXIII (1879), 205-208. Contains all of CR I except baptisms, 1733-1768; renewers of the covenant, 1665-1768; admissions, 1723-1724.

CR I PUB HUNNEWELL - James F. Hunnewell (ed.), Records of the First Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1632-1789 (Boston, 1880). Complete copy of CR I, with notes based on other primary sources extant in 1880.

CR I PUB HUNNEWELL INDEX - "Index to Records First Church Charlestown 1632-1789." (Flyleaf: "Index to the Records of the First Church, Charlestown, Massachusetts. 1632-1789. As printed for James Frothingham Hunnewell. 1880.") Owned and held by the City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.

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1. See also "Charlestown Church Affairs," MHSC, 3rd Ser., I (1825, rep. 1846), 248-264, for further primary source materials concerning the years 1677-1678.



CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1789-1833. Described in CR I PUB HUNNEWELL, pp. 165, 168.<sup>1</sup>

Also MISSING from the collection of church records are the following books of records described by CR I PUB HUNNEWELL, pp. 167-168: "The Deacon's Book, 1671," containing diaconal accounts and other records, 1671-1806; two "Day Books, 1693 and 1767," containing miscellaneous prudential records. It is thought that these items may still be extant, although their present location is unknown.

PR I - "I," "Charlestown Parish Records Begun May 1784." 1784-1803.

PR II - "I," "Parish Records. Book First." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Parish in the Town of Charlestown: Began March 24<sup>th</sup>. 1803.") 1803-1823.

PR III - "Records of the First Parish in Charlestown, May, 1823. Book Second." 1823-1854.

PR IV - "Records Book Third" (binding), "Records of the First Parish in Charlestown. Book Third" (cover). 1854-1880.

Miscellaneous parish records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1807; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1808-1811, 1856-1870/78; Pew Deeds, 1834-1927; and minor financial records of the early 19th century.

BOSTON, Dorchester, First (U).

The church was gathered at Dorchester on or soon after July 30, 1630.<sup>2</sup> During the winter of 1635-36, an undetermined

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1. CR I PUB HUNNEWELL, p. 160, noted (as of 1880) a lacuna in the records of church meetings, 1768-1789.

2. Before emigrating to Massachusetts, the personnel of what became the Dorchester church met at the New Hospital, Plymouth, England, and sufficiently organized themselves to permit their designating Maverick and Warham as the church's eventual ministers. See "Captain Roger Clap's Memoirs," in Alexander Young (ed.), Chronicles of the First Planters of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, from 1623 to 1636 (Boston, 1846), pp. 343-367.



number of the church's members accompanied the junior minister, John Warham, to Windsor, Ct., but it is uncertain whether they removed as a church organization or simply as a company of persons heretofore members of the Dorchester church. Those who remained at Dorchester, together with persons newly arrived from England, deemed it necessary or fitting to reorganize themselves. On Aug. 23, 1636, a written covenant (the church's first ?) was subscribed, and the<sup>1</sup> church reconstituted under the ministry of Richard Mather.

The First Parish in Dorchester was organized in 1807, and the Trustees of the Parish received incorporation in 1831.

Ministers:	John Maverick	(ord. 1630; d. 1635/36)
	John Warham	(ord. 1630; rem. 1635; d. 1670) <sup>2</sup>
	Richard Mather	(inst. 1636; d. 1669)
	Jonathan Burr	(ord. 1640; d. 1641)
	John Wilson, Jr.	(ord. 1649; rem. 1651; d. 1691)
	Josiah Flynt	(ord. 1671; d. 1680)
	John Danforth	(ord. 1682; d. 1730)
	Jonathan Bowman	(ord. 1729; res. 1773; d. 1775)
	Moses Everett	(ord. 1774; res. 1793; d. 1813)
	Thaddeus Mason Harris, D.D.	(ord. 1793; dism. 1836; d. 1842)

Ruling elders:<sup>3</sup> Henry Withington (e. ca. 1636; d. 1666/67)

1. Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties," Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897, II, 28, notes an early memorandum which designates the church thus reconstituted as "The Second Church of Dorchester." Also see BOSTON, Dorchester, First, CR PUB, 9.

2. Some authorities have read into Roger Clap's "Memoirs" the notion that Maverick and Warham received congregational ordination at Plymouth, England, for service in Massachusetts. See Williston Walker, The Creeds and Platforms of Congregationalism (New York, 1893), pp. 149-150; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 137, 215.

3. Was Israel Stoughton, Esq., a Dorchester ruling elder? We think not, even though he is reported to have pronounced the sentence of excommunication on a Dorchester offender in the 1630's. See Thomas Lechford, Plain Dealing or News



George Minot	(m. 1660 ?; d. 1671)
Deacon James Humphry	(e. 1668; ord. 1668/69; d. 1686)
Deacon James Blake	(e. 1685/86; ord. 1686; d. 1700)
Capt. Samuel Clap	(e. 1701; ord. 1701/02; d. 1708)
Deacon Samuel Topliff	(e. 1701; ord. 1701/02; d. 1722)
Deacon Hopedstill Clap	(e. and ord. 1708/09; d. 1719)
Deacon Daniel Preston	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1720-1721; d. 1726/27) <sup>1</sup>
Deacons: Edward Clap	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1636; d. 1664/65)
John Wiswall	(m. 1654; res. and dism. to Boston First 1670; d. 1687)
John Capen	(ord. 1658/59; d. 1692)
James Humphry	(e. and ord. 1666; elev. to ruling elder 1668; d. 1686)
Richard Withington	(e. 1668/69)
James Blake	(e. and ord. 1672; elev. to ruling elder 1685/86; d. 1700)
Daniel Preston	(e. 1686; d. 1707)
Samuel Topliff	(e. and ord. 1692; elev. to ruling elder 1701; d. 1722)
Hopedstill Clap	(e. and ord. 1692; elev. to ruling elder 1708/09; d. 1719)
Daniel Preston, Jr.	(e. 1701; ord. 1701/02; elev. to ruling elder <u>ca.</u> 1720/21; d. 1726/27)
Sgt. James Blake	(e. and ord. 1708/09; m. 1725)
John Blake	(e. and ord. 1717/18; d. 1717/18)

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from New England (ed. by J. Hammond Trumbull) (Boston, 1867), p. 31.

1. The records are ambiguous concerning which "Deacon Daniel Preston" was actually the one elevated to the ruling eldership. We believe that it was Deacon Daniel Preston, Jr.

The records list an "Elder John Wiswall" among the signers of the 1636 covenant. Wiswall served as a deacon at Dorchester, but his eldership was served at Boston First.



Jonathan Clap	(e. and ord. 1718/19; d. ca. 1724-1725) <sup>1</sup>
Hopestill Clap	(e. 1723/24; ord. 1724; d. 1759)
Nathaniel Topliff	(e. 1723/24; ord. 1724; d. 1751)
Richard Hall	(e. 1762; d. 1777)
Abijah White	(e. 1762; res. 1799; d. 1804)
Samuel Topliff	(e. 1762; m. 1803)
Edward Pierce	(e. 1777; m. 1805)
James Humphries	(e. 1799; m. 1805)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned by the church and deposited in the vault of a Boston bank.

CR I - "Records of the 2d Church in Dorchester Which was Gathered after the First Church Removed, & Settled themselves at Windsor. Beginning August y<sup>e</sup> 23d Anno Domini 1636. In the Colony of Massachusetts, & Province of the Massachusetts=Bay in New England." 1636/1653-1734.

CR I COPY HARRIS - "Records of the Church in Dorchester, carefully transcribed from the Original Book (which was much mutilated, and nearly illegible) By Thaddeus Mason Harris." Copy made ca. 1800.

CR PUB - Records of the First Church at Dorchester in New England 1636-1734 (Boston, 1891).

CR II - "First Parish Church in Dorchester Baptisms, Admissions, Deaths Etc. 1729-1778." Church records, 1744-1773; vital statistics (baptisms, owners of covenant, admissions, summary of disciplinary actions, deaths), 1729-1778.

CR III - Church Records, 1773-1814. Includes baptisms and owners of covenant, 1774-1835; admissions, 1774-1843; disciplinary cases, 1775-1799.

VS BAP - "Record of Baptisms from 1748 to 1792."

VS BAP PUB - Edgar Yates (ed.), "Baptisms in the First Church at Dorchester, Mass., 1748-1792," NEHGR, LXVIII (1914), 215-238, 309-321.

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1. The records also mention a Deacon Capen, "Aged & Pious," who died on May 11, 1729.



VS MAR - "This book contains a RECORD of those who have been lawfully joined together in Marriage by me Thaddeus Mason Harris Minister of the Church of Christ in Dorchester." 1793-1836.

VS ADM - "Members of the First Church in Dorchester." Membership and admissions, 1799-1836.

VS COPY REG - "Records & Index First Church Dorchester 1729-1845." (Flyleaf: "Records of First Church Dorchester. Baptisms 1729-1837 Deaths 1729-1779 Full Communion 1729-1845 Owned the Covenant 1729-1836.") Owned and held by the City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.

CR IV - "Records of the Body variously called The First Church of Christ in Dorchester The First Church in Dorchester The Church of the First Parish in Dorchester The First Parish Church in Dorchester (incorporated Jan. 25 1913) from Jan 29, 1815 to Jan 2, 1920 when the union of the Church and the Parish was completed."

PR I - "Records First Parish Dorchester Vol. 1." 1808-1837.

PR II - "Records First Parish Dorchester." (Flyleaf: "Records of the first Parish in Dorchester commencing April 10<sup>th</sup> 1837 Vol. 2.") 1837-1856.

PR III - "Records Vol. 3 First Parish Dorchester." 1857-1903.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1817-1881; Church and Parish Financial Records, 1807-1865; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1844-1866, 1866-1899, 1856-1904; Pew Deeds, 1855-1885; and collections of calendared loose papers of the church and parish. See also "Manuscript of Rev. Josiah Flynt, of Braintree and Dorchester," DHR, X (1899), 19-25, for two disciplinary cases which occurred at Dorchester in 1674-1676.



BOSTON, Jamaica Plain, First (U).

The church was gathered on Dec. 11, 1770 as the Church of the Third Parish in Roxbury. The Third Parish had been partially organized in 1769; it was fully incorporated in 1772.<sup>1</sup> In 1864, with the designation of the area by its modern name, the organization was incorporated<sup>2</sup> as the First Congregational Society of Jamaica Plain.

Ministers: William Gordon, D.D. (inst. 1772; dism. 1786;  
d. 1807)  
Thomas Gray, D.D. (ord. 1793; d. 1847)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Brewer (e. ca. 1771; m. 1778)  
Ezra Davis (e. ca. 1771; m. 1782)  
Nathaniel Weld (m. 1775-1801)  
Isaac Williams (m. 1794-1799)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1770-1847.<sup>3</sup>

VS I - "Records & Index Third Parish Church Roxbury 1771-1860." (Flyleaf: "Records of Admissions Marriages Baptisms Deaths Third Parish in Roxbury Jamaica Plain 1771-1860.") Copied from CR I. Owned and held by the City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.

CR II - "First Congregational Society of Jamaica Plain." 1847-1855, with vital statistics to present. Owned by the church; held by Mr. George W. Kenyon of Jamaica Plain.

1. The 1769 date is sometimes cited as that of the parish's incorporation, but the parish records refute this.

2. This is the church which Emil Oberholzer, Jr., lists as extinct, in Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 355.

3. This book of records was extant when Ellen L. Ernst wrote The First Congregational Society of Jamaica Plain (The Third Parish Church in Roxbury). 1769-1909 (n.p., 1909), the best of the several published histories of the church.



PR I - "Records The Cong. Soc. of 3d Parish in Roxbury."  
1769-1843.

Miscellaneous records: Pew Deeds, 1845-1849.

BOSTON, Roxbury, First (U).

The church was gathered in 1632. Precinct<sup>1</sup> records commence in 1733, gradually to be replaced by the rubric "parish records." The First Religious Society was incorporated in 1825. In 1868, Roxbury was annexed to Boston.

Ministers:	Thomas Welde	(inst. pastor 1632; rem. 1641; d. 1660/61)
	John Eliot	(ord. teacher 1632; d. 1690)
	Samuel Danforth	(ord. pastor 1650; d. 1674)
	Nehemiah Walter	(ord. 1688; d. 1750)
	Thomas Walter	(ord. 1718; d. 1724/25)
	Oliver Peabody	(ord. 1750; d. 1752)
	Amos Adams	(ord. 1753; d. 1775)
	Eliphalet Porter, D.D.	(ord. 1782; d. 1833)
Ruling elders:	John Miller	(e. ca. 1637; rem. 1639; d. 1663) <sup>2</sup>
	Isaac Heath	(e. ca. 1637; d. 1660/61)
	John Bowles	(e. 1674; d. 1680)
	John Peirpoynt	(e. 1674; d. 1682)
	Samuel Williams	(e. 1677; d. 1698)
	John Bowles, Jr.	(e. 1688; d. 1691)

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1. Roxbury was sometimes referred to as "the East Precinct."

2. Later minister at Rowley, Yarmouth and Groton successively.



Deacons: <sup>1</sup>	George Alcock	(e. at Dorchester 1631 ?; ord. Roxbury 1632; d. 1640)
	William Parke	(ord. 1632; d. 1683)
	Philip Eliot	(ord. ca. 1640; d. 1657)
	Giles Paison	(e. 1671/72; d. 1688/89)
	William Gary	(ord. before 1687; d. 1712)
	Samuel Scarborough	(ord. before 1700; d. 1714/15)
	John Paison	(ord. before 1705; d. 1719) <sup>2</sup>
	John Mayo	(ord. before 1711; d. 1732/33)
	John May	(ord. before 1711; d. 1730/31)
	John Paison	(ord. before 1732; in- cluded in the Second Precinct when it was set off in 1738/39; served as deacon there until d. 1747/48)
	Edward Ruggles	(ord. before 1732; rem. 1753; d. 1765)
	Samuel Gridley	(ord. 1736; d. 1776)
	Deacon Stephen Williams	(e. and ord. 1753; d. 1773) <sup>3</sup>
	Ebenezer Craft	(ord. 1753; d. 1791)
	William Girdley	(ord. 1773; d. 1786)
	Samuel Sumner	(ord. 1779; d. 1813)
	David Weld	(ord. 1785; d. 1821)
	Nehemiah Munroe	(ord. 1787; d. 1828)
	Joshua Felton	(ord. 1787; d. 1816)

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1. James De Normandie et alii, A Memorial Service in the First Church in Roxbury, November 9, 1913 (Boston, 1914), pp. 5 and 9, names as "our first deacon" one William Pyncheon, and as "the first ruling elder" Isaac Heath. The records, however, make no mention of Pyncheon.

2. Sometimes given as "Payson," and the same "Deacon Person" mentioned in the Sudbury church records for 1705.

3. Noted as having been "formerly Deacon of the 2d Chh in this Town."



The records are owned by the church; those starred (\*) are deposited in a Boston bank.

CR I - "Roxbury First Church Records." (Flyleaf: "The Church of Roxbury Book A:") Memoranda on first members of the church; vital statistics and running records, 1642-1775.\*

Much of CR I has been published serially:

William B. Trask (ed.), "The Rev. John Eliot's Record of Church Members, Roxbury, Mass.," NEHGR, XXXV (1881), 21-24, 241-247. Eliot's memoranda on the first members of the church.

William B. Trask (ed.), "Rev. John Eliot's Records of the First Church in Roxbury, Mass.," NEHGR, XXXIII (1879), 62-66, 236-239, 295-299, 413-416. Memoranda and church acts, 1642-1677.

William B. Trask (ed.), "Rev. Samuel Danforth's Records of the First Church in Roxbury, Mass.," NEHGR, XXXIV (1880), 84-89, 162-166, 297-301, 359-363. Church acts, 1649-1674, omitting disciplinary proceedings.

See also James De Normandie, "Some Notes from an Old Parish Record Book," MHSP, 2nd Ser., XVIII (1903-1904), 340-347. Despite the title, these are excerpts from Eliot's church records.

CR I PUB - "The Rev. John Eliot's Record of Church Members," in City of Boston, A Report of the Record Commissioners, Containing the Roxbury Land and Church Records, 2nd ed. (Boston, 1884), pp. 71-212. This comprises Boston City Document No. 114, first printed in 1881.

Purportedly a complete publication of CR I, in which the entries have been chronologically and topically arranged, CR I PUB omits the records for 1751-1775 as "containing nothing of interest to the public," bowdlerizes many of the disciplinary notices and drops other entries, all without indicating that the original text has been tampered with.

CR II - "A Book of Entries belonging to the 1st Church of Christ in Roxbury Begun the 11th of June 1779 -- When sd Church was destitute of a Settled Ministr Joseph Ruggles Clerk to y<sup>e</sup> Chh's Commtee Book B." Church records, 1779-1782, 1838-1883; vital statistics from 1779 include baptisms to 1882, owners of the covenant to 1829, admissions to 1830, marriages to 1876, burials to 1883.\*



CR III - "Book C." Church records, 1839-1843, with admissions, 1831-1881.

CR IV - "Records First Church in Roxbury." Scattered church votes and vital statistics, 1883-present.

VS A - "First Church in Roxbury [Index to] Baptisms No. 1 1779 to 1862."\*

VS B - "First Church in Roxbury [Index to] Baptisms No. 2. 1779 to 1862."\*

VS C - "First Church in Roxbury [Index to] Baptisms 1779 to 1862. No. 3."\*

VS D - "First Church. [Index to] Members who have owned the Baptismal Covenant. 1779 to 1824."\*

VS E - "First Church. [Index to] Persons admitted to Church Fellowship. 1779 to 1830."\*

VS F - "First Church in Roxbury Register of Marriages 1782 to 1862."\*

VS G - "First Church in Roxbury [Index to] Burials from 1779 to 1862. No. 1."\*

VS H - "First Church in Roxbury [Index to] Burials from 1779 to 1862. No. 2."\*

PR I - "Records of the first Parish Roxbury Begun 1733." (Flyleaf: "Records of Roxbury first Precinct.") 1733-1814.\*

PR II - "Records, First Parish, Roxbury 1815." 1815-1867.\*

SR III - "Records First Religious Society Roxbury." 1868-1905.\*

PR/SR INDEX - "First Religious Society in Roxbury Index to Parish Records 1733 to 1861."\*

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Accounts, 1789-1883; Parish/Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1740-1824, 1825-1855, 1880-1907; Pew Tax Accounts, 1804-1806, 1813-1824, 1856-1862, 1863-1875, 1871-1874, 1876-1891; Pew Deeds, 1805-1826, 1805-1817, 1817-1829, 1862-1894; Records of Meeting-House Renovation Committee, 1857-1876.



BOSTON, West Roxbury, First (U).

The church of the West Parish in Roxbury was gathered on Nov. 2, 1712. The West Precinct in Roxbury was incorporated in 1733. The West Parish was itself incorporated in 1772. In 1851, West Roxbury was set off as a town, although the First Parish in West Roxbury did not receive incorporation until 1866. In 1874, West Roxbury was annexed to Boston, and the First Parish was reincorporated in 1890.

Ministers:	Ebenezer Thayer	(ord. 1712; d. 1733)
	Nathaniel Walter	(ord. 1734; d. 1776)
	Thomas Abbot	(ord. 1773; dism. 1783; d. 1789)
	John Bradford	(ord. 1785; d. 1825)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Lyon	(e. 1713)
	Nathaniel Brewer	(e. 1713)
	Isaac Newel	(e. 1720)
	Ichabod Davis	(e. 1734; ord. 1736)
	Nathaniel Brewer	(e. 1735; ord. 1736)
	John Davis	(m. 1744; res. 1774; d. 1776)
	Ezra Davis	(e. 1754; rem. 1773)
	David Weld	(e. 1772; m. 1790)
	Ephraim Murdock	(e. 1774; res. 1787; d. 1803)
	Noah Davis	(e. 1787; d. 1807)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Second Parish of Roxbury, Mass. - Covenant, Baptisms, etc., 1712-1773." Photostat; location of original unknown.

CR II - "For the Use of the Church at the west end of Roxbury." 1774-1818.

CR III - "Chh Records." 1824-1837.

CR I, II, III COPY - "Records and Index First Church West Roxbury 1712-1837 Marr. Bapt. & Deaths." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Chh, West Roxbury. Church History, Marriages, Baptisms, Deaths, 1712-1837.") A complete copy of the above, as well as of precinct records, 1733-1796. Owned and held by the City Registrar, City Hall, Boston.



CR IV - "The church Records of the Second Parish in Roxbury." 1837-1846.

CR V - "Chh Records. Vol. V." 1846-1870.

CR VI - "Records of the First Church in West Roxbury." 1870-1879, with vital statistics to 1891.

PR I - Precinct/Parish Records, 1733-1796.

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Accounts, 1811-1825, 1825-1874; Precinct/Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1749-1817, 1818-1900.

BOSTON, Brattle Square or Street (see Boston, Fourth).

BOSTON, Brookline (see Brookline).

BOSTON, Church in Church Green (see Boston, Sixth).

BOSTON, [Andrew] Croswell's Church (see Boston, Eleventh).



BOSTON, Dorchester, South Precinct (see Canton).

BOSTON, Dorchester, "a part of" the South Precinct (see Stoughton).

BOSTON, Federal Street Church (see Boston, Arlington Street Church).

BOSTON, Hollis Street Church (see Boston, Eighth).

BOSTON, Church in Long Lane (see Boston, Arlington Street Church).

BOSTON, Lynde Street Church (see Boston, Ninth).



BOSTON, Manifesto Church (see Boston, Fourth).

BOSTON, [Samuel] Mather's Church (see Boston, Tenth).

BOSTON, Muddy River (Hamlet) (see Brookline).

BOSTON, New Brick Church (see Boston, Seventh).

BOSTON, New Church at the South End (see Boston, Eighth).

BOSTON, New North Church (see Boston, Fifth).

BOSTON, New South (Free) Church (see Boston, Sixth).

BOSTON, Old Brick Church (see Boston, First).

BOSTON, Old North Church (see Boston, Second).

BOSTON, Old South Church (see Boston, Third).

BOSTON, Church of the Presbyterian Strangers (see Boston, Arlington Street Church).

BOSTON, Roxbury, East Precinct (see Boston, Roxbury, First).

BOSTON, Roxbury, Second Parish (see Boston, West Roxbury).



BOSTON, Roxbury, Third Church (see Boston, West Roxbury).

BOSTON, Roxbury, Third Church and Parish (see Boston, Jamaica Plain).

BOSTON, Roxbury, West End, Precinct and Parish (see Boston, West Roxbury).

BOSTON, School Street Church (see Boston, Eleventh).

BOSTON, West Church (see Boston, Ninth).

BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church (C), extinct.

Tradition holds that Roger Williams, John Eliot, Thomas Mayhew, Jr. and William Leverich all preached to the Indians at Comassakumkanet (Herring Pond or Ponds) between 1631 and 1653. The first regular ministry appears to have

been that of Capt. Thomas Tupper, a missionary venture begun in 1658.

Since Eliot's 1670 list of Indian churches makes no mention of Herring Pond(s), it is usually assumed that formal organization of the Indian church took place after Eliot wrote, but before Tupper's death in 1675/76. The meeting-house, financed by Judge Samuel Sewall, was erected in 1689-1691.

The church probably became extinct with the death of the last of the missionary Tupperes, Elisha, in 1787. However, the remnants of the Christian Indian community received the ministrations of Indian and white preachers as late as 1849.

The Herring Pond(s) area lies partly in Plymouth and partly in the Sagamore section of Bourne (and was once part of Sandwich Second Precinct).

For detailed information on all the Indian praying towns and churches, see Frederick L. Weis, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," CSMP, XXXVIII (1947-1951), 134-218, and William Kellaway, The New England Company, 1649-1776 (London, 1961). Kellaway reports on the company's publications, described earlier by George P. Winship, The Eliot Indian Tracts (Cambridge, 1925). Among the seventeenth century items used in preparing the present inventory of churches and their personnel, mention should be made of John Eliot's A Brief Narrative of the Progress of the Gospel amongst the Indians in New-England in the year 1670 (1671, rep. Boston, 1868), and the 1698 report of Rawson and Danforth, published by Cotton Mather et alii as A Letter about the Present State of Christianity among the Christianized Indians of New England (Boston, 1705) (reprinted as "Account of an Indian Visitation," MHSC, 1st Ser., X (1809, rep. 1857), 129-134).

Ministers:	Capt. Thomas Tupper	(prob. not ord.; tended the Indian mission at Herring Pond 1658-d. 1675/76; also helped supply Sandwich First the last two years of his life)
	John Cotton, Jr.	(Indian mission on the Vineyard 1664-1667; ord. Plymouth First 1669, also ministered to two dozen "praying Indian" towns and churches; rem. 1697; d. 1699)



Charles of Mannamit	(Indian preacher, active here and at praying towns in Bourne [Mannamit] and Wareham [Weweantic] 1674-1685)
Capt. Thomas Tupper, Jr.	(prob. not ord.; served at Herring Pond 1676-d. 1706)
Rowland Cotton	(ord. Sandwich First 1694, ministered to six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1721/22)
Ralph Jones	(Indian preacher, 1698)
Jacob Hedge	(Indian preacher, also associated with praying town at Plymouth [Manomet Ponds] 1698-1709)
Eldad Tupper	(prob. not ord.; grandson and son of the Captains Tupper, and like them a member of Sandwich First; helped organize Sandwich Second 1734; ministered here 1706-d. 1750)
Josiah Cotton	(ministered to a half dozen Indian praying towns and churches 1707-d. 1744)
Solomon Briant	(Indian preacher, also associated with Bourne [Mannamit], Mashpee, Orleans [Potanumaquut], Yarmouth [Matakees] 1720-d. 1775)
Elisha Tupper	(son of Eldad; prob. ord.; served four Indian praying towns and churches 1739-d. 1787)

Gideon Hawley	(ord. 1754 to Indian mission field; inst. Mashpee 1758; d. 1807; associated with eleven Indian praying towns and churches)
Isaac Jeffrey	(Indian preacher, also associated with Bourne [Mannamit], Bourne [Pocasset], Plymouth [Manomet Ponds] 1767-1770)
Duncan Ingraham	(missionary 1774-1779)
Phinehas Fish	(ord. Mashpee 1812; rem. 1840; d. 1854; also associated here)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

BOURNE, Pocasset (Pokesit) Indian Church (C), extinct.

The praying town at Pocasset came into being about 1675. If a church was formally gathered here, it is likely that its organization was guided by Benjamin Fessenden, ca. 1725. The death of the last of the missionary Tuppers in 1787 was accompanied by the disintegration of the community.<sup>1</sup>

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers: Benjamin Fessenden (ord. Sandwich First 1722; also ministered here and at Sandwich [Skauton]; d. 1746)

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1. See Frederick L. Weis, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," CSMP, XXXVIII (1947-1951), 134-218. Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod (Boston, 1860-1862), doubts that a church was gathered at Pocasset.



Joseph Briant	(Indian preacher, active here and at Mashpee and Orleans [Potanumaquut] from 1725; ord. Orleans [Potanumaquut] 1758; d. 1759-1760)
Joseph Bourne	(ord. Mashpee 1729, also ministered to seven "praying Indian" towns and churches; d. 1767)
Joseph Papenah	(Indian preacher, also associated with Falmouth [Succonesit] 1758-1762)
Gideon Hawley	(ord. 1754 to Indian mission field; inst. Mashpee 1758; d. 1807; associated with eleven Indian praying towns and churches)
Elisha Tupper	(prob. ord.; served four Indian praying towns and churches 1739-d. 1787)

[BOURNE, Monument (C), extinct.]

Because Pocasset was incorporated (as the Second Precinct of Sandwich) in 1772, it is sometimes assumed that church organization among the English residents dates from that year. However, Monument Church was actually gathered in 1833.

BOXBORO (Univ.), extinct.

The church was gathered on April 29, 1784, the Society having been organized in 1775. The majority of the church members withdrew in 1829 to form an orthodox society and church. The old Society continued to sponsor occasional

services under Universalist auspices until 1842. In 1870, with the sale of the meetinghouse to the town, the old Society ceased to exist.

Minister: Joseph Willard (inst. 1785; res. 1823;  
d. 1828)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Abel Fletcher (e. 1784; res. 1805; d. 1822)  
Oliver Read (e. 1784; res. 1815; m. 1821)  
Moses Whitcomb (e. 1805)<sup>1</sup>

The records are owned and held by the Evangelical Congregational Church of Boxborough.

CR I - "The Gift of Samuel Wetherbee, To The Church in Boxborough. June the 17th: 1784." Records of the old church, 1784-1829; of the Evangelical Congregational Church, 1829-1834.

CR II & SR II - "Records." Records of the old church and its society, 1836-1842.

SR I - MISSING, "Record Book. The Gift of Bennet Wood to the Society Building a Meeting-House in North-westerly part of Stow. Littleton, August 31, 1776." Society records, 1775-1836.<sup>2</sup>

#### BOXFORD, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 30, 1702, and the First Parish organized in 1735. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1825, and The Proprietors of the Meeting-house organized in 1840.

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1. The only other deacons of the old church, Joseph Stone and Paul Hayward, Jr., were elected in 1816, and died in 1822 and 1842, respectively.

2. Cited by Lucie C. Hagar, Boxborough: A New England Town and Its People (Philadelphia, 1891), p. 37.



Ministers: Thomas Symmes (ord. 1702; res. 1708;  
d. 1725)  
John Rogers (ord. 1709; rem. 1743;  
d. 1755)  
Eliezur Holyoke (ord. 1759; d. 1806)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Thomas Perley (e. 1702 ?; cta. 1709)  
Abraham Redington (e. 1702 ?; cta. 1713)  
Daniel Wood (e. 1714)  
Jonathan Foster (e. 1717; cta. 1730)  
Timothy Foster (e. 1718; cta. 1759)  
Nathan Peabody (e. 1730; d. 1733)  
Thomas Redington (e. 1734; cta. 1759)  
Aaron Kimball (e. 1759; cta. 1774 ?)  
Joseph Hale (e. 1759; cta. 1765)  
Stephen Symonds (e. 1765; cta. 1808)  
Joseph Symonds (e. 1774; cta. 1778)  
John Dorman (e. 1780; cta. 1792)  
Moses Peabody (e. 1792; cta. 1826)  
Jonathan Wood (e. 1795; cta. 1797)  
Parker Spofford (e. 1798; cta. 1836)

The records are owned by the church and deposited with the Town Clerk.

CR I - Church Records, 1703-1758, with some vital statistics to 1793.

CR I COPY - CR I, copied in 1886.

CR II - "Records of the First Church of Christ in Boxford, Vol. 2." 1758-1852.<sup>1</sup>

CR III - "Records of the First Church in Boxford." 1834-1836.

CR IV - "Records of the Church in the First Parish of Boxford." 1838-1880.

CR V - "Records of the First Church, Boxford." 1881-1898.

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1. Because begun at a time when it was thought that CR I had been lost, CR II contains an independent account of church affairs 1703-1758.

PR I - Parish Records, 1735-1759.

PR II - Parish Records, 1759-1876.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' and Treasurer's Accounts, 1794-1885; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1838-1907.

# BOXFORD, West (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 9, 1736 as the Church in the Second Parish of Boxford (itself incorporated in 1735).<sup>1</sup>

Ministers:	John Cushing	(ord. 1736; d. 1772)
	Moses Hale	(ord. 1774; d. 1786)
	Peter Eaton, D.D.	(ord. 1789; d. 1848)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Worster	(e. 1737; suspended from office for New Light activities 1745)
	Caleb Brown	(e. 1737; rem. 1743; dism. 1744)
	David Foster	(e. 1743; d. 1759)
	Thomas Chadwick	(e. 1746)
	Lt. Joseph Hovey	(e. 1759; d. 1785)
	John Chadwick	(e. 1786; res. 1795)
	Asa Parker	(e. 1790; res. 1806; d. after 1813)
	John Robinson, Esq.	(e. 1795; res. 1806)

The records are owned by the church and deposited with the Town Clerk.

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1. An error frequently met in the older histories of Boxford and Essex County is the dating of the church's gathering on Dec. 9, 1735.



CR I - "Records of y<sup>e</sup> Second Church of Christ in Boxford." 1736-1850.<sup>1</sup>

PR I - Parish Records, 1735-1776.

PR II - Parish Records, 1776-1845.

Miscellaneous parish records: Collector's Accounts, 1735-1786; Assessors' Rate Book, 1792-1865; Parish Committee Records, 1795-1866; Treasurer's Accounts, 1847-1919. Mention should also be made of Edward E. Pearl's type-script history, "Second Congregational Church. Boxford," owned and held by The Congregational Library, Boston.

BOXFORD, Second (see Boxford, West).

BOYLSTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 6, 1743 as the Church of the Second or North Precinct in Shrewsbury. When the precinct became a town in 1786, the First Parish of Boylston was organized, and the church accordingly changed its name. During the pastorate of Arminian minister Ward Cotton, antagonism between his adherents and the orthodox led to a series of ecclesiastical councils, the last of which in 1825 dismissed him from the pastorate on behalf of the orthodox church members. Cotton continued at Boylston, preaching at private homes and in the town hall, and a Unitarian church and society (1834) were organized.

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1. Some scraps of information are contained in "Items from an Interleaved Copy of Ames's Almanac for 1746, belonging to Rev. John Cushing," NEHGR, XIX (1865), 237-241; rep. in EA, IV (1900), 155-156.



After Cotton's departure, this venture drifted into Universalism, and finally became extinct. Its records have disappeared. The orthodox church of the First Parish continues in existence today.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers:	Ebenezer Morse	(ord. 1743; disp. 1775; d. 1802)
	Eleazar Fairbanks	(ord. 1777; res. 1793; d. 1821)
	Hezekiah Hooper	(ord. 1794; d. 1795)
	Ward Cotton	(ord. 1797; disp. 1825; d. 1843)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Deacon John Keyes, Sr. <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1743; cta. by 1767)
	Deacon Cyprian Keyes <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1743; m. 1768)
	Jonathan Keyes	(e. 1743; m. 1769)
	Amariah Bigelow	(e. 1772; m. 1779)
	Levi Moore	(e. 1772; cta. by 1815)
	Jonathan Bond	(e. 1779; cta. by 1793)
	Jonas Goodenow	(e. 1794; cta. by 1811)
	Cyrus Houghton	(e. 1794; cta. by 1797)
	Daniel Andrews	(e. 1794; cta. by 1826)
	Jonathan Bond, Jr.	(e. 1797; cta. by 1821)

The records are owned by the church and deposited with the Town Clerk, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Old Church Record, Shrewsbury 1744 1750." 1743-1774, with some vital statistics to 1791. Owned and held by The New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

CR I PUB - "Records of the Church in the North Parish of Shrewsbury," NEHGR, LXXVII (1923), 17-33. Omits almost all church votes, printing only vital statistics.

1. Some confusion has resulted from Frederick L. Weis' categorization of the 1743 body as an extinct Unitarian church and parish. See The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 242. The several published histories of the church correct Weis' mistake.

2. Originally deacons at Shrewsbury.



CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1777-1832. Presumed lost by fire.<sup>1</sup>

CR III - "Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church of Christ in Boylston beginning with the settlement of Rev. W. H. Sanford Oct. 17th, 1832.") 1832-1893.

CR IV - "Boylston Cong. Church Records - From June 1893 to April 1908." 1893-1939.

PR I - "Records of the Second Precinct in Shrewsbury, Town of Boylston." (Flyleaf: "The Records of The north Precinct in Shrewsbury Anno Domini 1742/3.") 1742/43-1786.

PR II - "Records First Parish Boylston 1796-1840."  
"Boylston First Precinct Book of records Begun 1796."

PR III - "Parish Records of the First Parish Boylston, Mass." 1841-1910.

Miscellaneous records: Assessors' Records for "the first Unitarian Society," 1836.

BOYLSTON, STERLING AND HOLDEN, Second Precinct and Church (see West Boylston).

BRADFORD, First Church and Parish/Society (see Haverhill, Bradford).

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1. See George L. Wright, MS "Boylston History," ca. 1920, kept with the church records in Boylston.

BRADFORD, East Parish (see Groveland).

BRADFORD, Second Church and Parish (see Groveland).

BRAINTREE, First (C).

Braintree was incorporated as a town in 1640, and originally encompassed present-day Braintree, Quincy, Randolph and Holbrook. The Quincy area ("Mount Wollaston") was the site of the original church, dating from 1639. The church in present-day Braintree was gathered on Sept. 10, 1707.

In 1708 old Braintree was divided into duly incorporated precincts, the North (Quincy) and the South (Braintree, sometimes called "Monatiquot"). When Quincy was set off as a town in 1792, the 1707 church was duly designated The First Church in Braintree.

Ministers:	Hugh Adams	(ord. 1707; rem. 1710; d. 1750)
	Samuel Niles	(ord. 1711; d. 1762)
	Ezra Weld	(ord. 1762; d. 1816)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Allen	(e. 1708-1711; d. 1726)
	Caleb Hubbard	(m. 1711)
	Peter Hobart	(e. 1719)
	Samuel White	(e. 1719) <sup>1</sup>
	Elkanah Wales	(m. 1740) <sup>1</sup>

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1. Wales was evidently elected some years earlier, was suspended from office for reasons unknown, and restored to office in 1740.



Jonathan Haywood	(d. 1757)
William Hunt	(e. 1742)
John Holbrook	(e. 1742; d. 1762)
James Penniman	(e. 1757; m. 1784)
Jonathan Allen	(e. 1757; d. 1761 ?)
Capt. Thomas Allen	(e. 1757; d. 1761)
John Holbrook, Jr.	(e. 1761)
Moses French	(m. 1784-1803)
Caleb Hayward	(m. 1803)
Adam Hobart	(m. 1803; d. 1824)
Elihu Thayer	(m. 1803) <sup>1</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1707-1762(?)<sup>2</sup>

CR I COPY - "Copy of Older Record Book and Dr. Storrs' Record Book." A copy of the Niles record book, covering 1707-1762, parts<sub>3</sub> of the third pastorate (Weld) and the years 1811-1871.

CR II - "Church Records, May 1790 to December, 1825."

1. F. A. Hobart's address in Centennial Celebration at Braintree, Mass., July 4, 1876 (Boston, 1877) misleadingly identifies several Quincy deacons as serving at Braintree.

2. A memorandum, ca. 1790, on the flyleaf of CR II says: "Mr. Niles having kept the records of the chh in his day in a book of his own, in which he also inserted many of his own family concerns, his family are unwilling to give up the book. It is in the hands of the Rev. Samuel Niles of Abbingdon [Ct.], and will probably be continued in his family, where, if need be, it may be consulted at any time, with freedom."

A. Morse, writing more than a half century later in "Record of Rev. Samuel Niles," NEHGR, VII (1854), 225, speaks of Niles' "aged daughters" living in their father's house, and still possessing the Niles' record book. No further mention has ever been made of the volume's existence.

3. Some excerpted marriage records were published by Edward E. Jackson, "A List of Marriages by Rev. Samuel Niles of Braintree, Mass., 1739-1762, Not Entered on Town Records," NEHGR, LX (1906), 41-43.

[CR III - Latter part of CR I COPY, church records, 1811-1871.]

CR IV - "Church Records. January, 1872 to November, 1888." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Church, Braintree. Jan. 1st, 1872. Vol. 2d.")

CR V - "Church Records. January 1889 to December, 1911."

PR I - "First Record Book. January 1708 to May 6, 1796." (Flyleaf: "Braintree South Precinct Book of Records In Which is ReEntered The votes of Said Precinct on March 14th 1719-20 Out of the Former Book Baring Date From Janry 17th 1708/09.")

PR II - "Parish Records. March, 1811 to January, 1838." (Flyleaf: "The First Parish of Braintree. Records.")

PR III - "Parish Records. March, 1838 to January, 1902." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Parish in Braintree Mass. AD. 1838.")

BRAINTREE, First Church (see Quincy).

BRAINTREE, North Precinct/Parish and Church (see Quincy).

BRAINTREE, South Church and Precinct (see Braintree, First).



BRAINTREE, South Precinct and Church (see Randolph).

BRAINTREE, Third Precinct and Church (see Randolph).

BREWSTER, First (U).

The church was gathered on Oct. 16, 1700 as the Church of the First or North Precinct of Harwich, incorporated the same day. In 1803 the precinct became the town of Brewster. The Trustees of the Brewster Ministry Fund were incorporated in 1811. The First Parish in Brewster was incorporated in 1838, and the church assumed the title of First Church after 1803.

Ministers:	Nathaniel Stone	(ord. 1700; d. 1755)
	Isaiah Dunster	(ord. 1748; d. 1791)
	John Simpkins	(ord. 1791; dism. 1831; d. 1843)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Thomas Freeman	(e. 1700; d. 1716)
	Thomas Crosby	(e. 1716; d. 1731)
	Thomas Lincoln	(e. 1716; m. 1725)
	Chillingsworth Foster	(e. 1731; m. 1763)
	Joseph Mayo	(e. 1740; m. 1766)
	John Snow	(e. 1760; m. 1780)
	Heman Stone	(e. 1766)
	Edmund Freeman	(e. 1766)

The records are owned by the church and deposited at the Town Hall, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Records of the Brewster congregational church. Oct. 16. 1700, to 1791." Owned and held by a resident of Brewster. A microfilm copy is owned and held by the Town Clerk.

CR I PUB - Records of the Brewster Congregational Church, Brewster, Massachusetts, 1700-1792 (Boston, 1911), limited edition of twenty-five copies. Some entries bowdlerized.

The church disclaims knowledge of any extant 19th century church records.

PR I - "A Book of Records For y<sup>e</sup> 1st Precinct in Harwich, Began March 25th, 1747." 1747-1815.

PR II - "Parish Records, 1816-1828."

PR III - "Church [sic] Records, 1829-1930."

Miscellaneous records: Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, 1811-1834; Proprietors' Records, 1834-1839.

#### BRIDGEWATER, First (U).

Bridgewater originally contained present-day Bridgewater, West Bridgewater and East Bridgewater, the oldest church (1664) being located in what is now West Bridgewater. In 1716 old Bridgewater was divided into northern and southern precincts, and it is the South Precinct that comprises modern Bridgewater.<sup>1</sup> The Church in the South Precinct was gathered on July 9, 1718. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund of the South Parish were incorporated in 1803, and the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater in 1853.

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1. The division of the northern precinct into western and eastern parts came in 1723, for which see those entries.



Ministers: Benjamin Allen (ord. 1718; rem. 1730;  
d. 1754)  
John Shaw (ord. 1731; d. 1791)  
Zedekiah Sanger, D.D. (inst. 1788; d. 1820)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Eleazar Carver (e. 1734)  
Joseph Alden (e. 1734)  
Capt. Josiah Edson (e. 1741; d. 1763)  
Solomon Pratt (d. 1757)  
Jacob Hayward (d. 1778)  
Col. Josiah Edson  
Benjamin Willis (e. 1775)  
Seth Pratt (e. 1775)  
James Perkins, Jr. (e. 1788)  
Ephraim Orcutt  
Maj. Isaac Lazell (e. 1803; d. 1810)  
Peter Conant (e. 1803; d. 1823)

All records antedating 1821 were destroyed by fire at that time. The later records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Bridgewater, collected & copied from former records, & continued by Claudius Bradford, Pastor. May 19, 1845." 1821-1912.

PR I - "Parish Annual Reports, Clerk and Committees, 1877- ." 1877-present.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1883-1892; Parish Assessors' Rate Book, ca. 1820-1830; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1816-1850; Parish Fund Cash Books, 1803-1892, 1892-1905; Pew Deeds, 1845-1902.

BRIDGEWATER, East Precinct, East Parish (see East Bridgewater).

BRIDGEWATER, Fourth Church (see Brockton).

BRIDGEWATER, North Parish (see Brockton).

BRIDGEWATER, North Precinct (see West Bridgewater).

BRIDGEWATER, South Precinct, South Parish (see Bridgewater).

BRIDGEWATER, Third Church (see East Bridgewater).

BRIDGEWATER, West Precinct and Church (see West Bridgewater, First).

BRIDGEWATER AND MIDDLEBORO, Church in the Joining Borders (see Middleboro, North).

BRIGHTON, First Church and Parish (see Boston, Brighton).



## BRIMFIELD, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 18, 1724 and the First Parish (or Congregational Society) organized in 1832.

Ministers:	Richard Treat	(ord. 1724; dism. 1734; d. 1757)
	James Bridgham	(ord. 1736; d. 1776)
	Nehemiah Williams	(ord. 1775; d. 1796)
	Clark Brown	(supplied from 1795; inst. 1798; rem. 1803; d. 1817)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	David Morgan	(e. 1724; d. 1760)
	Henry Burt	(m. 1762-1775)
	John Stebbins	(m. 1762; d. 1765)
	Luke Blashfield	(m. 1775)
	John Sherman	
	Joseph Hoar, Sr.	(e. 1775; res. 1785; d. 1797)
	Joseph Hitchcock	(e. 1777)
	Issacher Brown	(e. 1785; d. 1816)
	Joseph Hitchcock, Jr.	(e. 1785; d. 1811)
	Ebenezer Fairbanks	(e. 1793; m. 1798)
	Capt. Samuel Sessions	(e. 1800; rem. 1802)
	Jonathan Morgan	(e. 1800)

All records prior to 1748 were destroyed in a parsonage fire in that year. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records." 1736, 1749-1837, several lacunae.

CR II - "This Book of Records of the Church in Brimfield commenced with the Rev. Mr. Vail's resettlement as Pastor of this Church." 1837-1929.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1866-1937.

## BROCKTON, First (C).

Old Bridgewater, incorporated as a town in 1656, was divided into northern and southern precincts in 1712. The North Precinct was divided into the East and West Precincts in 1723. In 1738, a part of the West Precinct was incorporated as the North Precinct in Bridgewater, and it was this area which became the town of Brockton in 1874. The church was gathered on Sept. 18, 1740 as the Fourth Church in Bridgewater. When the area became known as North Bridgewater, the church became the First Church and the First Parish in North Bridgewater was incorporated in 1823. The change of names to that of First Church and First Parish in Brockton came in 1874.

Ministers: John Porter (ord. 1740; d. 1802)  
Asa Meech (ord. 1800; rem. 1811; d. 1849)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: James Packard (e. 1740)  
Samuel West (e. 1740; rem. after 1746)  
Zachariah Snell (e. 1747)  
Jonathan Cary (e. 1751)  
David Edsen (e. 1768)  
Ebenezer Packard, Jr. (e. 1792)  
David Edsen, Jr. (e. 1792)  
Eliphalet Packard (e. 1798)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "A Church Book." 1740-1812.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "Records 4th Church Bridgewater 10/28/1812 - 1/4/1874."

CR III - "April 2, 1874 - January 25, 1894."

CR IV - Church Records, 1894-1914.

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1. Some excerpts were published by Bradford Kingman, in "Marriages in the North Parish of Bridgewater (Now North Bridgewater), from January 1, 1742, to January, 1780. By Rev. John Porter," NEHGR, XIX (1865), 200-204.



PR I - Precinct/Parish Records, 1738-1852. On deposit at the Congregational Library, Boston.

PR II - "April 7, 1852 - April, 1893."

PR III - Parish Records, 1894-1962.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1767-1862.

# BROOKFIELD, First (U).

The facts concerning the origins of the present Brookfield and West Brookfield churches have been sufficiently misrepresented to warrant detailed treatment here.<sup>1</sup>

Old Brookfield was incorporated as a town in 1673, and its church was gathered in 1717, the latter event being delayed that long by recurrent troubles with the Indians. In 1750, a Second (or North) Precinct was set off, and a (second) church gathered there in 1752. (In 1812, this Second Precinct would be incorporated as the town of North Brookfield; the 1752 church is so listed in this inventory.)

Meanwhile, troubles were brewing in the First (or old) Precinct of Brookfield over the location of the meetinghouse. The old meetinghouse had been situated at Foster's Hill in the western part of the old precinct (viz., in what today is the town of West Brookfield). In 1753, personnel from the southern part of the old precinct began razing the old building with an eye to replacing it with a new edifice on Brookfield Common (viz., in what today is the town of Brookfield). The Foster's Hill group appealed to the General Court, and that august body intervened.

By order of the Court (Nov. 8, 1754), the old (or First) precinct was divided into two parts. The new (western) precinct was to retain the name and powers of the First Precinct of Brookfield, - although when incorporated as a town in 1848, it was given the town name, "West Brookfield!" The new (southern) precinct was denominated the Third Precinct; when the Second Precinct achieved townhood in 1812, the Third became the Second Precinct. To complete the confusion, with the incorporation of the First Precinct in 1848 as the town of West Brookfield, the now-Second Precinct inherited the ancient, uncluttered name of "Brookfield."

The church in this Third/Second Precinct was finally gathered de novo on April 15, 1756, and it is with this church that we now have to do, that is, the church in the modern town of

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1. The culprit appears to have been the Rev. Thomas Noyes, minister (1799-1833) of Needham's Second Church (now Wellesley's First Church), whose notions have misled historians since the appearance of his article in CQ, X (1837-38), 48, 53-54.



Brookfield.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers:	Elisha Harding	(ord. Old Brookfield 1749; dism. 1755; continued at Brookfield to res. 1756; d. 1784)
	Nathan Fiske, D.D.	(ord. 1758; d. 1799)
	Michael Stone	(ord. 1801; res. 1827; d. 1852)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to a lack of church records, no information can be found regarding the lay officers of this church, except for a Deacon Gad Williston of Brookfield, mentioned in the Northfield church records for 1779.

The extant records are owned and held by the church; however, a church fire in 1911 destroyed virtually all records antedating 1893.

PR I - "Parish Records of 1st Congregational Society of Brookfield, Mass." 1869-1912.

Helpful secondary sources include the several published manuals of the Brookfield churches, especially Manual of the Congregational Church, West Brookfield, Mass. (West Brookfield, 1853), and the anniversary addresses published by Samuel Dunham (1867), Lyman Whiting (1860), and Leander T. Chamberlain (1895). See also J. H. Temple, History of North Brookfield, Massachusetts (Boston, 1887).

BROOKFIELD, First Church and First Precinct (see West Brookfield).

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1. The present Brookfield Congregational Church also lays claim to the 1756 date, although its withdrawal from the parish in 1827 followed the classic pattern established at Dedham in 1820.



BROOKFIELD, North Parish (see North Brookfield).

BROOKFIELD, Second Parish or Society (see Brookfield, First).

BROOKFIELD, Second Precinct/Parish and Church (see North Brookfield).

BROOKFIELD, South Parish or Society (see Brookfield).

BROOKFIELD, Third Precinct and Parish (see Brookfield).

BROOKLINE, First (U).

The church was gathered on Oct. 26, 1717 as the Church of the First Parish. The town of Brookline had been set off in 1705, prior to which time the area had been known as the Hamlet of Muddy River. The Parish was incorporated in 1834.

Ministers:	James Allen	(ord. 1718; d. 1747)
	Cotton Brown	(ord. 1748; d. 1751)
	Nathaniel Potter	(ord. 1755; dism. 1759; d. 1768)
	Joseph Jackson	(ord. 1760; d. 1796)
	John Pierce, D.D.	(ord. 1797; d. 1849)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Thomas Gardner	(e. 1718)
	Benjamin White, Jr.	(e. 1718; res. 1749)
	Samuel Clark, Jr.	(adm. 1724; res. 1749; d. 1766)
	Thomas Cotton	(adm. 1726; res. and rem., n.d.)
	Ebenezer Davis	(e. 1749; res. 1770; d. 1775)
	Joseph White	(e. 1749; res. 1770; d. 1777)
	Elisha Gardner	(e. 1770; res. 1792; d. 1797)
	William Bowles	(e. 1770; res. and rem. to Newton 1772)
	Samuel Clark	(e. 1797; d. 1814)
	John Robinson	(e. 1797; d. 1856)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Brookline Church Records." Scattered church records and vital statistics, 1718-1957.<sup>1</sup>

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1. A flyleaf memorandum reads: "The Records of Brookline Church, before the ministry of the Rev. Joseph Jackson, were but imperfectly kept. All the proceedings of the Church, which were recorded by the Rev. James Allen, the first minister, are comprised within one page! This account of Baptisms is known to be incomplete. Nor is it certain, that he recorded all the admissions to the Church, during his ministry. Of marriages and deaths he left no information . . . . This negligence is moreover to be deplored, as it set an example, which was too faithfully followed by the second and third pastors of Brookline Church." The present volume was begun by John Pierce, who collected all the extant data of former pastorates and set it down as a preface to his own account.



VS I - "First Parish Church of Brookline. Records of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths." MS copy, extracted from CR I. Owned and held by Essex Institute, Salem.

VS I PUB - "First Parish Church Records of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, for 100 Years," BHSP, No. 8 [1897].<sup>1</sup>

Further information can be found in John Pierce's "Historical Sketch of Brookline," MHSC, 2nd Ser., II (1814; rep. 1846), 140-161, and the same author's A Discourse Delivered, 9 November, 1817 (Boston, 1818).

BROOKLINE, Separate Congregational Church (see Newton, Separate Congregational Church of 1751-1787).

BUCKLAND (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 8, 1785. The First Parish was incorporated in 1820, and dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1888. Because the well-known educator, Mary Lyon, was early a member, the church calls itself "The Mary Lyon Church."

Minister: Josiah Spaulding (inst. 1794; d. 1823)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Samuel Taylor (e. 1789; re-e. 1791; re-e. 1793)  
           Chandler Burgin (e. 1789; re-e. 1791; re-e. 1793)

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1. See also No. 5 in this series, "Roxbury Church Records Relating to Brookline," rep. from Vol. VI of the Reports of the Record Commissioners of Boston, 2nd ed. (Boston, 1884).

Lemuel Taylor	(e. 1797; re-e. 1797; ord. 1807; d. 1834)
Benjamin Ballard	(e. 1797; rem. 1806)
Nathaniel Sherwin	(e. and ord. 1807; d. 1834) <sup>1</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the Church of Christ in Buckland."  
Scattered entries, 1785-1789; vital statistics: admissions, 1785-1789; marriages, 1794-1823; deaths, 1830-1836.

CR I COPY & CR II - "Records of the Church in Buckland."  
Copy of CR I; original church records to 1877.

CR III - "Records of the Congregational Church in Buckland." 1876-1930.

PR I - Parish Records, 1820-1887.

#### BURLINGTON (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 29, 1735 as the Second Church of Christ in Woburn. The Second Precinct in Woburn had been incorporated in 1730. When in 1799 the area was organized as the town of Burlington, church and parish accordingly changed their titles.

Ministers:	Supply Clap	(ord. 1735; d. 1747/48)
	Thomas Jones	(ord. 1751; d. 1774)
	John Marrett	(ord. 1774; d. 1813)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early church records, very little is known about these lay

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1. The church experienced considerable difficulty in settling deacons. The 1791 election named five persons to the diaconate, all of whom refused to accept ordination in 1793; finally, in the latter year, two of the five changed their minds. The 1797 election saw four persons refusing the office, although one of them later was re-elected and ordained.



officers of this church. Burlington probably did not employ ruling elders. Of the early deacons, the names of the following are known:

Timothy Winn  
David Blanchard  
David Blanchard, Jr.  
Samuel Reed  
Joseph Johnson<sup>1</sup>  
Jonathan Simonds<sup>1</sup>

The extant records are owned and held by the church. A fire in 1897 destroyed virtually all church records antedating the present century, and all parish records prior to 1864.

CR I - "The Records of the Second Church of Christ in Woburn." Baptisms and admissions, 1735-1827; 19th century memoranda and lists of church officers; church records, 1904-1919.

SR I - "Records of the Congregational Religious Society in Burlington, Massachusetts." 1864-1892.

SR II - "Records of the Congregational Religious Society in Burlington, Massachusetts." 1898-1905.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1869-1881, 1882-1892, 1893-1901.

#### BYFIELD (C).

Although Byfield is not a town, its history is sufficiently complicated to warrant an entry under this name. The area was originally known by its Indian name, "Quascacunquen"

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1. The other names mentioned in CR I, p. 125, are probably those of deacons elected after 1805.

or The Falls (later, Newbury Falls). Comprising the western portions of modern Rowley and Newbury, one of its earliest English names combined elements of both words in the name "Rowlbury Parish" (sometimes miswritten "Rowlberry").

Settling the area by 1702, two years later the residents agreed on the name "Byfield," in honor of a Bostonian who donated a bell for the meetinghouse. Byfield Precinct was organized in 1704, and incorporated in 1710. Whether the church was gathered on Feb. 24, 1704 or at the ordination of the first minister, Nov. 17, 1706, is uncertain.<sup>1</sup>

In 1838, almost half of the Byfield area was annexed to New Rowley,<sup>2</sup> incorporated in that year as the town of Georgetown.<sup>2</sup> The present location of the church is in Rowley.

The Proprietors of the Ministerial Fund in the Parish of Byfield were incorporated in 1812, and the Proprietors of the Meeting House in 1834.

A New Light separation in 1744 did not produce a Separate church at Byfield.<sup>3</sup> A Presbyterian separation that saw the gathering of a Presbyterian church in 1796 was similarly short-lived, the dissidents returning to the old parish church by 1805.

Ministers:	Moses Hale	(ord. 1706; d. 1744)
	Moses Parsons	(ord. 1744; d. 1783)
	Elijah Parish, D.D.	(ord. 1787; d. 1825)

Ruling elders: none.

1. Most authorities prefer the 1706 date. See Joseph S. Clark, A Historical Sketch of the Congregational Churches in Massachusetts, from 1620 to 1858 (Boston, 1858), pp. 345-350; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 250.

2. Weis, loc. cit., therefore lists the Byfield Church under Georgetown.

3. See C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 312.



Deacons:	William Moody	(e. 1706; d. 1730)
	John Cheney	(e. 1706 ?; cta. 1723; rem. 1724)
	Daniel Jewett	(e. 1723 ?; d. prob. 1727)
	James Chute	(e. 1727 ?; d. 1769)
	Samuel Moody	(e. 1730 ?; d. 1767)
	Joseph Searle	(e. 1763)
	Benjamin Colman	(e. 1763; d. 1797)
	Joseph Poor	(e. 1790; d. 1795)
	Joseph Hale	(e. 1790; d. 1818)
	James Chute	(e. 1795; d. 1825)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by E. Douglas Jewett, Ipswich.

VS I - "Record of Byfield Parish Baptisms and Deaths."<sup>1</sup>  
1709-1797. Owned and held by Essex Institute, Salem.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1744-1825.<sup>2</sup>

CR II - Church Records, 1825-1832, with vital statistics to 1839.

CR III - "Church Records." 1832-1845.

CR IV - MISSING, Church Records, 1845-1873.

CR V - Church Records, 1873-1951. Owned and held by the church.

PR I - "Byfield Parish Records. October 29th 1706 - Mar. 2nd 1762."<sup>3</sup>

PR I PUB - "Byfield Parish Records," EIHC, LXXXIX (1953), 163-194, 253-273, 376-392. Complete publication of PR I.

1. The other church records antedating 1744 were noted as lost in 1860. See Charles Brooks, MS "Historical Sketch," owned and held by Mr. Jewett.

2. Cited as extant by John L. Ewell, The Story of Byfield: A New England Parish (Boston, 1904), as are CR IV and PR II.

3. Missing when Brooks and Ewell wrote, and only recently recovered.



PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1762-1805.

PR III - "Record of the Parish of Byfield from 1805 to 1878."

PR IV - MISSING, Parish Records, 1878-1960.

PROP I - "The Proprietors Book of y<sup>e</sup> Parrish on Newbury Side Begun April 11, 1753." 1753-1803.

PROP II - "Record of the doings of the proprietors of the Parsonage wood lot so called, in Newbury part of Byfield. continued from the old Book which is full. Decmr 3rd 1803." 1803-1838, becoming the records of the Proprietors of the Ministerial Fund in 1812. Bound with PROP I.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1807-1823, 1819, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1838, 1841-1842, 1844-1845, 1844-1846; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1717-1827, 1794-1876, 1886-1902; Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1803-1828.

CAMBRIDGE, First Parish and Church (U).  
First Church (C).

A church was gathered at Cambridge (then called Newtown) on or shortly before Oct. 11, 1633. Three years later, the pastor, the teacher, and many of the church members removed to Hartford, Ct., establishing themselves there.

Those who remained at Cambridge, together with newcomers, gathered a new church on Feb. 1, 1635/36.<sup>1</sup> In 1733, following the incorporation of a Second (Menotomy) Precinct, - now the town of Arlington, - by the General Court, the part of Cambridge not so set off, namely, "the southeasterly part," was organized as the First Precinct (later, First Parish) of the town of Cambridge.

Separation into Unitarian and Trinitarian bodies came in the year 1829. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund in the First Parish in Cambridge, continuing under Unitarian auspices, had been incorporated in 1818. The Shepard Congregational Society, representing the orthodox, was incorporated in 1829.

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1. Embedded in the considerable literature claiming for each of the present churches the right to the title of "First Church," are occasional attempts to date the present bodies from 1633.



Ministers:	Thomas Hooker	(ord. pastor 1633; rem. to Ct. 1636; d. 1647)
	Samuel Stone	(ord. teacher 1633; rem. to Ct. 1636; d. 1663)
	Thomas Shepard	(ord. 1635/36; d. 1649)
	Jonathan Mitchell	(ord. 1650; d. 1668)
	Urian Oakes	(ord. 1671; d. 1681)
	Nathaniel Gookin	(ord. 1682; d. 1692)
	William Brattle	(ord. 1696; d. 1716/17)
	Nathaniel Appleton, D.D.	(ord. 1717; d. 1784)
	Timothy Hilliard	(inst. 1783; d. 1790)
	Abiel Holmes	(inst. 1792; dism. by parish 1829; cont. as minister to orthodox contingent to dism. 1831; d. 1837)
Ruling elders:	William Goodwin <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1633; rem. to Ct. 1636; d. 1673)
	Richard Champney	(e. between 1636 and 1658; d. 1669)
	Edmund Frost	(e. between 1636 and 1658; d. 1672)
	John Stone <sup>2</sup>	(ord. 1682; d. 1683)
	Jonas Clark	(ord. 1682; d. 1699/1700)
Deacons:	Andrew Warner <sup>3</sup>	(e. 1633; rem. to Ct. 1636; d. 1684)
	Thomas Marrett <sup>4</sup>	(e. between 1636 and 1658; d. 1664)
	John Bridge	(e. between 1636 and 1658; d. 1665)
	Nathaniel Sparhawk <sup>5</sup>	(e. between 1639 and 1647; d. 1647)

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1. See George L. Walker, History of the First Church in Hartford, 1633-1883 (Hartford, 1884), pp. 57-61, 146-174. As the result of a church quarrel there, 1653-1659, Goodwin led a secession and resettlement at Hadley, Mass., where again he served as ruling elder, before removing to Farmington, Ct.

2. See W. F. Stone, "Will of Elder John Stone," NEHGR, VIII (1854), 145-146. Not usually listed among this church's deacons, Stone is so designated by Alexander McKenzie, Lectures on the History of the First Church in Cambridge (Boston, 1873), p. 129.

3. See George L. Walker, loc. cit. Like Goodwin, he removed to Hadley in 1660, presumably served as a deacon there, and died in 1684.

4. Sometimes given as "Marriot."

5. Sometimes given as "Sparrowhawk(e)."



Edward Collins	(e. between 1640 and 1658; d. 1689)
Gregory Stone	(e. between 1636 and 1658; d. 1672)
Thomas Chesholm <sup>1</sup>	(e. after 1658; d. 1671)
John Cooper	(e. after 1658; d. 1691)
Walter Hastings <sup>2</sup>	(e. between 1658 and 1693; d. 1705)
Nathaniel Sparhawk	(e. after 1658; d. 1686/87)
Samuel Cooper	(e. 1704/05; d. 1717/18)
Nathaniel Hancock	(e. 1705; d. 1719)
Joseph Coolidge	(e. 1717/18; d. 1737)
Samuel Kidder	(e. 1717/18; d. 1724)
Nathaniel Sparhawk	(e. 1724; d. by 1734)
Samuel Bowman	(e. 1734; d. 1774)
John Bradish	(e. 1738; d. by 1741)
Henry Prentice	(e. 1741; res. 1774; d. 1787 ?)
Samuel Whittemore	(e. 1741; d. ca. 1783)
Aaron Hill	(e. 1774; d. 1792)
Prof. Stephen Sewall	(e. 1777; d. 1804)
Gideon Frost	(e. 1783; d. 1803)
James Munro	(e. 1783; d. 1804)
John Walton	(e. 1792; d. 1823)
William Hilliard	(e. 1804; d. 1836)
Josiah Moore	(e. 1805; d. 1814)

Only fragmentary records, largely vital statistics, ante-date 1696. Unless otherwise noted, the items cited are owned and held by the Unitarian body.

CR I - "Records of the First Church in Cambridge." List of members, 1658; Dr. Ezra Stiles' 1772 letter regarding the gathering of the church (based on Winthrop); church records, 1696-1792. Also a typescript copy.

CR II - "II. Church Records. MDCCXCII." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Church in Cambridge.") 1792-1830.<sup>3</sup> Also a typescript copy.

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1. Sometimes given as "Cheeseholme."

2. The earliest reference to Hastings' deaconship is to be found in BOSTON CHARLESTOWN FIRST, CR I PUB HUNNEWELL, p. 83, under date of 1693.

3. CR II was taken by the orthodox at the time of the separation, and later returned to the Unitarian body. See CR IIA.



CR PUB I & II - Stephen P. Sharples (ed.), Records of the Church of Christ at Cambridge in New England, 1632-1830, Comprising the Ministerial Records of Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, Admission to Covenant and Communion, Dismissals and Church Proceedings (Boston, 1906).

CR IIA - "First Parish Church Records beginning June 28th, 1829." (Flyleaf: "Church Record. - Supplement to Vol. II.") 1829-1830.<sup>1</sup>

CR III - "Records of the First Church in Cambridge. Vol. 3." 1830-1927.

C MISC - MS record of relations of forty-eight candidates for church membership during Shepard's ministry. Owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. See NEHGR, XXIII (1869), 369. A photostat copy is owned and held by the Harvard University Library (Houghton), Cambridge.

Miscellaneous church financial records:

CT I - MISSING, Church Treasurer's (Deacon's) Accounts, 1638-1645 and 1667-1716. Reported by Sharples, op. cit., pp. v-vi. Reported in CSMP, XVII (1913-1914), 249, minutes of the April 1914 meeting, as offered to and accepted by the Colonial Society, but never published.

CT II - MISSING, Church Treasurer's (Deacon's) Accounts, 1692-1696. Reported by Sharples, loc. cit. See Henry E. Edes, "The Deacons' Books of the First Church in Cambridge," CHSP, X (1915), 114-115.

CT III - "Church acct. [?] Book 1793." 1793-1827.

CT IV - "Church Treasurer's Acct. 1829-1853." With records of the Church Fund to 1890.

CT V - MISSING, Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1853-post 1915.

Other miscellaneous church records: Church Committee, 1867-1874, 1874-1879, 1879-1884, 1884-1886, 1886-1890,

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1. CR IIA was begun by the Unitarian body during the early days of the separation, when the orthodox held CR II.



1890-1893, 1898-1907; Church Committee Financial Accounts, 1897-1904, 1899-1904; "Record Book Congregation of the First Parish in Cambridge 1898-1911," records of body comprised of persons related to the church who joined neither the parish nor the church.

PR I - "Vol. A. The First Parish in Cambridge First Record Book 1733-1755." (Flyleaf: "A This Book Belongeth To The first or SouthEasterly Precinct In Cambridge: 1733.") Precinct/parish records, 1733-1755.

PR II - "Vol. B. The First Parish in Cambridge First [sic] Record Book. 1756-1781."

PR I & II COPY - "The First Parish in Cambridge. Copy of Record Books A and B 1733-1781." MS copy.

PR III - "Vol C First Parish Records 1782-1794." (Flyleaf: "A Book for the Records of the First Parish in Cambridge In their Parish meetings Bought by James Munro at the Parish Expençe Prise 5/ Caimbridge 1782.")

PR IV - "First Parish Records 1795-1814 Book D."

PR V - "Records First Parish in Cambridge." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Parish in Cambridge. March. 1815.") 1815-1843.

PR VI - "Records First Parish in Cambridge." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Parish in Cambridge April 1843.") 1843-1886.

PR VII - (Binding) "Records. Volume G First Parish in Cambridge. 1887 to Feb. 14, 1927." (Cover) "First Parish in Cambridge."

Miscellaneous parish records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1824, 1826-1829, 1830-1833, 1834-1840, 1841, 1842, 1844; Parish Collector's Accounts, 1763-1802, 1802-1825; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1764-1835; Parish (Standing) Committee Records, 1884-1894, 1894-1910; Pew Deeds, 1844-1867; Records of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, 1817-1847, 1848-1904. Some miscellaneous papers are owned and held by the Historical Library, Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston.



CAMBRIDGE, Separate (C/B), extinct.

The church appears to have been gathered at the time of its pastor's ordination, April 24, 1751. Whether it had a distinctly congregational phase before identifying completely with the Baptist tradition is not known. It was still in existence in 1784, but had disappeared from the scene by 1817, when the First Baptist Church was organized.

Minister: Nathaniel Draper (ord. 1751; rem. 1753; d. 1767)

Neither records nor secondary information regarding the lay officers of this church are extant. See C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 97-98, 312.

CAMBRIDGE, Menotomy Precinct (see Arlington).

CAMBRIDGE, North-West Precinct (see Arlington).

CAMBRIDGE, Second Precinct/Parish and Church (see Arlington).

CAMBRIDGE, South Precinct (see Boston, Brighton).

CAMBRIDGE, Third Church and Parish (see Boston, Brighton).

CAMBRIDGE FARMS, Parish, Church (see Lexington).

CANTON, First Congregational Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Oct. 13, 1717 as the Church in the South Precinct of Dorchester, the area having been so incorporated in 1715. When this precinct was annexed to Stoughton in 1736, the church's name was duly changed and its parish incorporated as the First in Stoughton. In 1797 the area involved became the town of Canton, the church took the new title, and in 1820 its parish was re-incorporated as the First Congregational Parish. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1825.

Ministers:	Joseph Morse	(ord. 1717; dism. 1727; d. 1732)
	Samuel Dunbar	(ord. 1727; d. 1783)
	Zachariah Howard	(ord. 1786; d. 1806)

Ruling elder:	Deacon Joseph Hewins	(e. 1720; office abandoned by the church in 1727; Hewins dism. 1741) <sup>1</sup>
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Deacons:	Joseph Hewins	(e. 1718; elev. to ruling elder 1720; dism. 1741)
	Benjamin Blackman	(e. 1718; d. 1748)
	Isaac Stearns	(e. 1720; d. 1741)
	Joseph Tucker	(e. 1729; deposed 1742; depo- sition voided 1743; dism. from office 1743; d. 1745)
	Joseph Topliff	(e. 1729; d. 1750)
	Silas Crane	(e. 1742; acc. 1745; d. 1753)
	Stephen Badlam	(e. 1750; d. 1758)
	Joseph Heartwell	(e. 1753-1754)
	Elihu Crane	(e. 1758; acc. 1759; d. 1789)

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1. Despite the church's abandonment of the ruling eldership in 1727, Hewins retained the title. Cf. CANTON FIRST, CR I, 37, under date of 1732: "This day was interred Elder Hewins's wife . . . ."



Elijah Dunbar	(e. 1769; m. 1807)
Lt. Benjamin Gill	(e. 1769; m. 1816)
Benjamin Tucker	(e. 1790; m. 1818)

The records are owned and held by the church. Other records reportedly stored with the local historical society, could not be located by that organization.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1717-1830.<sup>1</sup>

CR I COPY & II - "Records belonging to the Church of Christ in Canton." Copy of CR I (1717-1830); records, 1830-1959.

Miscellaneous records: Pew Deeds, 1825-1896.

CAPE LANDS, Parish (see Rockport).

CARLISLE, First Religious Society (U).

The church was gathered on Feb. 28, 1781.<sup>2</sup> The First Religious Society was incorporated in 1832, after the withdrawal of the orthodox members of the church.

Minister: Paul Litchfield (ord. 1781; d. 1827)

Ruling elders: none.

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1. See Daniel T. V. Hunton, History of the Town of Canton, Norfolk County, Massachusetts (Cambridge, 1893), pp. 508-509.

2. Sometimes 1758 is given as the date of the church's gathering, but this is the year of the erection of the meetinghouse.



Deacons: due to the sparsity of early records, very little is known about the members of the diaconate. A John Robbins is mentioned as a deacon-elect in 1781, and the same man (or possibly another of the same name) spoken of as a deacon in 1810 and again in 1819. One Ephraim Robbins is mentioned as a deacon (possibly of another church) in 1781; he died in 1820. John Green and John Jacobs, mentioned as deacons in 1827 and the latter one of the founders of the orthodox church, may well have been elected after 1805. Green died in 1858, Jacobs in 1827.

The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the Church of Christ in Carlisle. Imbodied Feb. 28. 1781." 1781-1782, book badly mutilated.<sup>1</sup>

PR I - "Book of Records For the first Parish in the town of Carlisle." 1832-1844.

PR II - "Book of Record For the first Parish in the town of Carlisle Second Volume." 1842-1870.

PR III - "Third Book of Records of the First Religious Society in Carlisle." 1870-1905.

Miscellaneous records: Society Accounts, 1842-1882.

Mention should also be made of the Wilkins notebooks owned and held by the town library. Mrs. Benson P. Wilkins in 1936 completed some twenty-five MS notebooks on the history of the town, the fourth containing information concerning the religious history of Carlisle. In 1943 Ruth C. Wilkins added five MS notebooks entitled "History of The First Religious Society The First Parish Church Carlisle, Mass. 1780-1943."

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1. Ruth C. Wilkins, *op. cit.*, Vol. XXVI, pp. 16, 20, records the tradition that at the time of the separation of the orthodox in 1828-1829, CR I was for a time retained by that wing of the church. Forced by law to return the records to the church of the parish, someone among the orthodox party first cut away all but the first twenty pages of the book. Neither the Wilkinses nor town historian Sidney A. Bull who published in 1920 indicate any knowledge of the contents of the missing pages.



## CARVER, First (C).

The church was gathered on May 13, 1733 as the South Church in Plympton, the Proprietors of the Meeting House having been incorporated in 1731. In 1790, the area (frequently called "Lakenham") was set off as the town of Carver, and the following year, the First Congregational Parish in (North) Carver was organized. The church is still sometimes designated the North Carver Calvinistic Congregational Church.

A separation centering in the south part of the town occurred in 1771, and may have contributed to the formation of a Baptist church there twenty years later.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers: Othniel Campbell (ord. 1734; dism. 1743;  
rem. 1746; d. 1778)  
John Howland (ord. 1746; d. 1804)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early records, only partial information is available concerning the church's lay officers. It appears unlikely that the church ever employed ruling elders. The following deacons are mentioned in the extant precinct records:

James Shaw	(m. 1741)
Joseph Lucas	(m. 1741; d. 1742)
Joseph Bridgeham	(m. 1743)
Abel Crocker	(m. 1751-1752)
Samuel Lucas	(m. 1752-1786)
Salvenus Dunham	(m. 1753-1771) <sup>2</sup>
Thomas Savery	(m. 1779-1799) <sup>2</sup>
Isaac Shaw Lucas	(m. 1805; d. 1808)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the church. Running records for the first two pastorates were noted as missing in 1913.<sup>3</sup>

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1. See C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 312.

2. Possibly the same Thomas Savery who in 1822 asked the church to elect additional deacons.

3. See Henry S. Griffith, History of the Town of Carver, Massachusetts. Historical Review, 1637 to 1910 (New Bedford, 1913), p. iv.



VS I - "This Book belongs To The Second Chh. of Christ in Plympton, May 1, 1766." Baptisms, 1760-1902; some lacunae.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "This Book is given to the Congregational Chh. of Christ, in Carver, by John Shaw, Pastor." 1805-1858.

CR III - "The Records of the Orthodox Congregational Church In North Carver." 1864-1908.

CR I, II, III COPY, & IV - "Pilgrim Church Register." Copy of parts of VS I, CR II, CR III, and records, 1908-1917.

PR I COPY - "The Precinct Book. The South of Plympton. The Precinct Book for the Precinct in Carver, March the Thirteenth 1792. Abiel Shurtleff." Precinct/parish records, 1731-1830, 1831-1896. Typescript copy. Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

CHAPPAQUIDDICK Indian Church (see Edgartown, Chappaquiddick Indian Church).

CHARLEMONT, First (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1767, probably during September. In 1785, that part of the town on which the meetinghouse stood was annexed to the newly created town of Heath, and the church was disbanded.<sup>2</sup>

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1. A partial list of church members, 1746-1913, is supplied by Griffith, op. cit., pp. 307-315.

2. One tradition has it that the disbanding of the church, and indeed the annexation of land to Heath, were parts of a complicated plot to remove Rev. Leavitt from the ministry of the two towns. If true, this would explain the somewhat unusual tactic of dissolving the church and creating a new church in each of the towns.



Minister: Jonathan Leavitt (inst. 1767; dism. 1785;  
d. 1802)

Ruling elders and deacons: it was noted in 1889 that no records of this church had survived,<sup>1</sup> so that there is almost no information extant regarding its lay officers. The records of the present Charlemont First Church suggest that Aaron Rice may have been a deacon of the extinct church.<sup>2</sup>

See William H. Leavitt, A Sketch of the Life and Character of Rev. Jonathan Leavitt, the First Minister of Charlemont, Mass. (n.p., 1903).

CHARLEMONT, First, Federated (C).

The church was gathered on June 6, 1788. In 1823, the minister led a Unitarian separation, forming a church and society which eventually disbanded in 1887. The orthodox retained control of the original church and society, and in recent years have federated with local Methodist and Baptist groups.

Ministers: Isaac Babbitt (ord. 1796; cta. 1798)  
Joseph Field (ord. 1799; dism. and rem. to  
Unitarian church in 1823;  
d. 1866)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Aaron Rice (e. 1788; probably a deacon of  
the extinct Charlemont church)  
Gersham Hawkes (e. 1788)

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1. Manual of the First Congregational Church of Charlemont, Mass. Adopted Jan. 3rd, 1889 (North Adams, Mass., 1889).

2. CHARLEMONT FIRST FED, CR I.

Ebenezer Fales (e. 1796)<sup>1</sup>  
 Abel Wilder (e. 1796)<sup>1</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1788-1828.

CR I COPY - Typescript copy.

CR II - "Congregational Church, Charlemont." 1822-1849.

CR I & II COPY, & III - "Records." Copy made in 1866 of CR I and CR II; running records, 1866-present.

Miscellaneous records: Church Register, 1847-1953;  
 Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1866-1909; records of the  
 extinct Unitarian "Independent Congregational Society,"  
 1845-1892.

CHARLESTOWN, First (see Boston, Charlestown, First).

CHARLTON, Federated (C).

The church was gathered on April 16, 1761, the parish being organized three days later and receiving incorporation in 1784. In 1798 the latter body was succeeded by the duly-incorporated Proprietors of the New Congregational Centre Meeting House, which organization was in turn replaced in 1826 by the First Calvinistic Congregational Society. The church itself was incorporated in 1872.

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1. Deacon Aaron Lyman of Belchertown was received into membership at Charlemont in 1804. Although not elected to the diaconate here until 1812, he probably served in that capacity from the time of his admission.



A short-lived (1827-1831) Unitarian separation has led some authorities to regard the original Charlton church as extinct; however, the Unitarian contingent carried neither the church nor the related prudential body with them.<sup>1</sup> The orthodox retained control of both, and in recent years have federated with local Universalists.

Ministers:	Caleb Curtiss	(ord. 1761; disp. 1776; d. 1802)
	Archibald Campbell	(inst. 1783; disp. 1793; d. 1818)
	Erastus Larned	(ord. 1796; disp. 1802; d. 1824)
	Edward Whipple	(ord. 1804; disp. 1821; d. 1822)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Nehemiah Stone	(e. 1761; res. 1788)
	Jonas Hammond	(e. 1761; m. 1782)
	Jonathan Dennis	(e. 1771; res. 1792 but still acting in 1797)
	Lt. Clement Coburn	(e. 1788; res. 1799)
	Jonas Ward	(e. 1790)
	Jonathan Pratt	(e. 1799)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "The Records of the Church in Charlton." 1761-1835.

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1. An incorrect citation appears first in Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties" (Public Document No. 52), Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897 (Boston, 1898), II, 40, and is repeated by Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of Massachusetts (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 245.

A corrective is provided by John Haven's MS "History of the Cong. Chh. in Charlton" (1861), owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston.

On the subject of separations, C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 315, remarks a separation at Charlton prior to 1762, but notes that it did not take on church organization until becoming distinctively Baptist.

CR II - "Records of the ~~Evangelical~~ Congregational Church Charlton Mass." 1836-1889.

CR III - "Church Records." 1889-1903.

PROP I - Proprietors Records, 1797-1825.

SR I - Society Records, 1826-1856.

SR II - "Record Book of the Congregational Calvinistic Society Charlton." 1856-1897.

Miscellaneous records: Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1797-1815; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1826-1841.

CHARLTON, Second Society (see Southbridge).

#### CHATHAM (C).

The church was gathered on June 15, 1720, and received incorporation in 1798. The First Parish was organized in 1824, abandoned in 1869 and replaced at that time by the duly-incorporated Orthodox Congregational Society.<sup>1</sup> A Separate movement in Chatham prior to 1749 did not take on church organization until fully identified with the

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1. Because he confused the church organization with that of the parish, Robert T. Swan reported two successive churches at Chatham. See his "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties (Public Document No. 52), Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897 (Boston, 1898), II, 40, 160.



Baptist tradition; until that time, the Separates worshipped at Harwich.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers:	Joseph Lord <sup>2</sup>	(sett. 1718; inst. 1720; d. 1748)
	Stephen Emery	(inst. 1749; d. 1782)
	Thomas Roby	(ord. 1783; res. 1795; d. 1836)
	Ephraim Briggs	(ord. 1796; d. 1816)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early records, it is not known if Chatham employed ruling elders, but it appears doubtful that it did. Smith, op. cit., p. 28, supplies the names of some early deacons:

Thomas Atkins	(the church's first deacon)
Samuel Taylor	
Stephen Smith	
Paul Crowell	
Paul Crowell, Jr.	
Nathan Bassett	(m. 1744 in Town Records)
John Hawes	

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1. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 95.

2. Most authorities preface the list of ministers with the names of five men who ministered at Chatham previous to the church's gathering. Jonathan Vickery served here from 1696-1699 until his death in 1702. Gershom Hall ministered from 1703 until his removal in 1706; he died in 1732. Neither Vickery nor Hall could be settled, since they were not college-trained. John Latimer arrived in 1707, removed in 1709, and died in 1713. Matthew Short served briefly in 1710; he died in 1731. Hugh Adams ministered from 1711 until his dismissal by the town in 1715, and Hall again filled the vacancy until 1718. See Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod (Boston, 1860-1862), 2 vols.; William C. Smith, Congregational Church in Chatham 1720-1920. Historical Address on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Organization of the Church (Chatham, 1920).

The records antedating 1861 were destroyed by fire in that year. Records since 1861 are owned and held by the church.<sup>1</sup>

CR I - "Records of the First Congregational Church, Chatham, Massachusetts." Historical sketch of the years 1720-1861; running records, 1861-1953.

CHEBACCO, Church and Precinct and Parish (see Essex).

CHELMSFORD, First Congregational Society (U).

The church was gathered on Nov. 15, 1655, its membership largely consisting of the minister and laity who had formerly comprised a part (the majority ?) of the church at Wenham.

Ministers:	John Fiske	(ord. Wenham 1644; sett. Chelmsford 1655; d. 1676/77)
	Thomas Clarke	(ord. 1678-1679; d. 1704)
	Samson Stoddard	(ord. 1706; d. 1740)
	Ebenezer Bridge	(ord. 1741; d. 1792)
	Hezekiah Packard	(ord. 1793; res. 1802; d. 1849)
	Wilkes Allen	(ord. 1803; res. 1832; d. 1845)

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1. William H. Allison, Inventory of Unpublished Material for American Religious History in Protestant Church Archives and Other Repositories (Washington, D.C., 1910), pp. 29-30, lists some documents relating to the church as held by the Congregational Library, Boston. The Library, however, states that these documents disappeared many years ago.



Ruling elders: the church apparently considered employing ruling elders in 1660, but there is no record that such were ever elected. See CHELMSFORD FIRST, CR I FISKE, pp. 59-60 (COPY, pp. 247-248).

Deacons: upon arrival at Chelmsford, the church was undecided as to whether or not two deacons elected probationally at Wenham still stood in that capacity in the new church. These deacons, Reade and Kempe, elected in 1644 and 1655, respectively, appear to have resigned their office preparatory to the move to Chelmsford; for several years thereafter, their status was a matter of debate in the church.

Esdras Reade	(e. Wenham 1644; res. 1655; rem. to Boston 1659; transferred membership 1661)
Edward Kempe	(e. Wenham 1655; res. 1655; ord. Chelmsford 1660)
Isaac Lerner	(e. 1656; d. 1658, unordained)
William Fletcher	(e. 1656; refused to make a new "relation" at the gathering of the Chelmsford church, and so never ordained)
James Parker	(e. and ord. 1660; rem. ca. 1661)
Thomas Hinchman <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1660; d. 1703)
Henry Farwell	(e. 1660; d. 1670)
Deacon Cornelius Waldo	(transferred from Ipswich ca. 1668; d. 1700/01)
Lt. Samuel Foster	(m. 1691; d. 1702)
Joseph Warren	(m. 1700)
Andrew Spaulding	(m. 1705; d. 1707)
Ephraim Spaulding	(e. 1745; d. 1791)
Stephen Pierce	(e. post-1741; d. 1749)
Andrew Spaulding	(e. post-1741; d. 1753)
Benjamin Adams	(e. 1747 ?; d. 1762)
John Warren	(e. 1749; rem. 1764)
Ebenezer Gould	(e. 1764; d. 1816)
Benjamin Parkhurst	(e. 1771; d. 1812)
Aaron Chamberlain	(e. 1771; m. 1796)

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1. Sometimes given as "Hinchman" or "Hincksman."



John Farmer	(m. 1802-1804)
Josiah Parkhurst	(e. 1803; d. 1818)
Owen Emerson	(e. 1803)

The records are owned and held by three different parties, as noted below. There are lacunae in the church records for the years 1675-1741 and 1780-1793. Some excerpts from the Fiske and later church records are contained in Wilson Waters, History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts (Lowell, 1917). Except for the two items noted, there are no society records antedating 1901.

CR I FISKE - "John Fisk's note-book." Minister's record of church affairs: Salem, 1637-1640; Wenham, 1644-1655; Chelmsford, 1655-1675. Owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem.

CR I FISKE COPY - "Rev. John Fiske's note-book 1637-1675." Typescript copy, largely dependent on earlier transcriptions made by Pulsifer and Greene. Owned and held by the Essex Institute.

CR I FISKE PUB - Samuel A. Green (ed.), "Remarks by Samuel A. Green, in communicating some extracts from a Note-Book of Rev. John Fiske," MHSP, 2nd Ser., XII (1897-1899), 317-338. Offprinted (Cambridge, 1898) as "Extracts from the Note-Book of the Rev. John Fiske, 1637-1675. With an introduction by Samuel A. Green."

CR II - "A Book of the Records of the Church of Christ in Chelmsford. 1741." 1741-1780. Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

CR III - "The Records of the Church in Chelmsford - begun 1793 October 22." 1793-1803. Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

CR IV - "Church Records of Chelmsford. Begun Jan. 1st 1804." 1804-1832, with vital statistics to 1836. Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

CR V - "Records of the first Church of Christ in Chelmsford under y<sup>e</sup> pastoral charge of Rev. William Andrews Began 31st day of March. 1836. & Continued by Revd John Lewis Russell." 1836-1872, with vital statistics terminating in 1841. Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

Miscellaneous records: Society Registers, overlapping, 1878-1959, 1884-1939 (owned and held by the church).



CHELMSFORD, Separate (C), extinct.

C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 205, 313, holds that prior to 1743, some Chelmsford Separates worshipped at Concord, and that from 1743 to about 1758, they comprised a Separate church at Chelmsford under the ministry of Samuel Hyde. By 1772, the surviving Separates had all returned to the parish church. However, no trace of such a church has been found at Chelmsford, and it may be that persons so-minded simply enjoyed Hyde's evangelism without ever proceeding to church organization. See also Mary L. and Winifred L. Holman, "Reverend Samuel Hyde and Some of His Descendents," NEHGR, XCVI (1942), 214-231.

CHELMSFORD (see Wenham).

CHELMSFORD, Second Church (see Westford).

CHELMSFORD, West Precinct and West Church (see Westford).

CHELSEA, First Church (see Revere).

CHELSEA, Rumney Marsh Church (see Revere).

CHESTER, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 20, 1769 as the Church in Murrayfield. In 1783, the area was incorporated as the town of Chester, and the church changed its name accordingly.<sup>1</sup>

Minister: Aaron Bascom (ord. 1769; d. 1814)

Ruling elders and deacons: in the years antedating 1805, the church was structured along presbyterian lines. Many of the ruling elders functioned as deacons simultaneously, and the names of these dual officers are starred (\*) in the following list.

Samuel Matthews*	(e. 1769; d. 1811)
John Kirtland	(e. 1769)
William Miller	(e. 1769)
James Hamilton*	(e. 1771; d. 1806)
Edward Wright	(e. 1771)
Jesse Johnson*	(e. 1773)
Stephen Lyman	(m. 1784-1805)
John Parmenter*	(e. 1795)
John Elder*	(e. 1795; d. 1810)
Gideon Matthews, Jr.*	(e. 1795; m. 1805)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records (loosely bound in folder), 1769-1808.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1808-1852.

CR III - "Records of the First Church in Chester, 1852." 1852-present.

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1. Erroneously listed by Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 245, as an extinct church.



SR I - Society Records, 1811-1885.

CHESTER, Church (see Becket).

CHESTERFIELD (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 30, 1764.

Ministers:	Benjamin Mills	(ord. 1764; dism. 1774; d. 1785)
	Josiah Kilburn	(ord. 1780; d. 1781)
	Timothy Allen	(inst. 1785; dism. 1796; d. 1806)
	Isaiah Waters	(ord. 1796; dism. 1831; d. 1851)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Col. Ezra May	(e. 1765; d. 1778)
	Brig. Gen. Benjamin Tupper	(e. 1765; rem. 1788; d. 1792)
	Benjamin Pierce	(e. 1781; d. 1809)
	Thomas Halbert	(e. 1781; rem. 1791; d. 1822)
	Nathaniel Colman	(e. 1792; res. and rem. 1797)
	Spencer Phelps	(e. 1795; d. 1829)
	John Russell	(e. 1795; res. and rem. 1801)

The records are owned by the church and deposited in the local library.

CR I - "Church Records: Chesterfield." 1764-1835.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in Chesterfield." 1835-1912.

SR I - Society Records, 1828-1844.

PR II - "Parish Record in Chesterfield. 1846." 1845-1866.

PR III - Parish Records, 1870-1932.

CHESTERFIELD GORE (see Goshen).

CHESTNUT HILL Church (see Blackstone).

CHICOPEE, First (C).

The Chicopee area was organized as the Fifth or North Parish in Springfield in 1750. By Sept. 27, 1752, when the church was gathered, parish lines had been redrawn so that the parish was then known as the Second Parish in Springfield. In 1848 the parish was incorporated as the town of Chicopee, the church becoming the First. The First Congregational Society was organized in 1850, and incorporated in 1873.

Minister: John McKinstry, Jr. (ord. 1752; d. 1813)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Benjamin Chapin	(e. 1752; d. 1756)
	David Chapin	(e. 1752; d. 1772)
	Samuel Cooper	
	Edward Chapin	(e. 1773; d. 1800)



After having been lost for a quarter-century, some (perhaps all) of the records have been located at the public library in Springfield. Church officers are currently negotiating for the return of these documents to the church. Not yet located, but thought to be at the library are the first two or three volumes of church records, 1752-1839, 1839-1903. Already returned to the church are:

PR I - Parish Records, 1751-1850/1885.

PR I DUP - Parish Records, 1751-1757. Duplicate record.

See also Orange Chapin, The Chapin Genealogy, containing a very large proportion of the Descendents of Dea. Samuel Chapin (Northampton, 1862), pp. 237ff.; Clara S. Palmer, The Annals of Chicopee Street (Springfield, 1899); One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary First Congregational Church, Chicopee, Massachusetts. September 28 and 29, 1902 (Canaan Four Corners, N.Y., 1903).

CHILMARK, Nashuakemmuck Indian Church (C), extinct.

Located some six miles from Edgartown, Nashuakemmuck was the site of a praying town by 1651, and its church was gathered in 1674. It became extinct some time after 1784. During its phase as a praying town, the community was ministered to by Thomas Mayhew, Sr., and the Indian preachers Momonequem (ca. 1651), Panupuhquah (d. 1664), and John Tackanash (ord. teacher of Oak Bluffs' Sanchacantacket Indian Church 1670; d. 1684).

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church, especially the 1670 report of John Cotton, Jr., the 1698 Rawson-Danforth report, and the studies of the New England Company by Weis and by Kellaway.

Ministers:	John Mayhew	(sett. West Tisbury 1673, associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1688/89)
	Janawannit	(Indian preacher; d. 1686)



Japeth (Pamc)hannit <sup>1</sup>	(Indian preacher, sett. Gay Head Indian Congregational Church 1693; also served here and Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket]; d. 1712)
William Lay (Panunnut)	(Indian preacher, younger brother of Panupuhquah; d. 1690)
Stephen Tackamason	(Indian preacher here and Chilmark [Seconchgut]; from 1702 also served Gay Head Indian Baptist Church; d. 1708)
Experience Mayhew	(Indian mission on the Vineyard 1692-d. 1758; associated with nine Indian praying towns and churches)
Josiah Torrey	(ord. West Tisbury 1704, associated with four Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1723)
Abel	(Indian ruling elder; elected preacher 1712 in succession to Japeth (Pamc)hannit; d. 1713)
Nathaniel Hancock	(ord. West Tisbury 1727, associated with three Indian praying towns and churches; dism. 1756; d. 1774)
Zachariah Mayhew	(ord. Chilmark 1767, associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1806)

Ruling elder: Abel (Indian ruling elder e. ca. 1698; elev. to preacher 1712; d. 1713)<sup>2</sup>

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1. Sometimes given as "Japeth Hannit, Jr."

2. Reported in 1698 as preaching "to a part of the church, living at too great a distance ordinarily to attend Japet's ministry; although they come together to attend church administrations." "Account of an Indian visitation," MHSC, 1st Ser., X (1809, rep. 1857), 129-134.



As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

CHILMARK, Seconchgut Praying Town (and Indian Church ?)  
(C), extinct.

Whether or not a church was gathered in this praying town is uncertain, although the Rawson-Danforth report of 1698 would seem so to indicate. The period of greatest activity seems to have been from 1698 to 1718.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	Janawannit	(Indian preacher, d. 1686)
	Stephen Tackamason	(Indian preacher here and Chilmark [Nashuakemmuck] 1690; from 1702 also served Gay Head Indian Baptist Church; d. 1708)
	Stephen Shohkow	(Indian preacher, also served West Tisbury [Christiantown]; d. 1713)
	Daniel Shohkow	(Indian preacher, also served Gay Head Indian Congregational Church and praying towns on the Elizabeth Islands; d. 1718)
	Eliab Coshomon	(Indian preacher, m. 1724)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

CHILMARK (C), extinct.

The church was probably gathered in 1715, although some authorities claim the year to have been 1700. By 1877, it had become largely inactive, and was legally dissolved by 1893.

During the years prior to its (probable) gathering, the church's constituency was ministered to by John Mayhew (sett. West Tisbury 1673; d. 1689) and Ralph Thacher (sett. 1697 [ord. ?]; rem. 1714).

Ministers:	William Homes	(ord. abroad as Presbyterian 1692; ord. Chilmark 1715; d. 1746)
	Andrew Boardman	(ord. 1746; d. 1776)
	Timothy Fuller	(sett. 1776-1778; rem. 1782; d. 1805)
	Jonathan Smith	(ord. 1788; dism. 1827; d. 1829)

Ruling elders: none known.

Deacons: information is fragmentary, but the following names are known:

James Skiffe	(m. 1719)
Simon Mayhew	(d. 1753)
Timothy Mayhew	(d. 1781)
James Allen	(m. 1788; d. 1815)
Nathan Mayhew	(e. 1788; d. 1791)
Reuben Tilton	(m. 1791; d. <u>ca.</u> 1810)

The church records antedating 1787, except for such items as are contained in the Diary of Rev. William Homes, have long been lost. The Diary is owned and held by the Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me. Records for the years 1787-1877 have disappeared since 1905.

C MISC - Charles E. Banks, "Diary of Rev. William Homes of Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, 1689-1746," NEHGR, XLVIII (1894), 446-453, L (1895), 155-156. Marriages, death, and some church acts, 1715-1746.

CR - MISSING, Church Records, 1787-1820 (or 1877).

CR PUB - William J. Rotch, "Records of the Congregational Church of Chilmark, Mass., 1787-1820," NEHGR, LIX (1905), 195-202, 257-264, 378-384. Vital statistics, and a few church acts.



See also Charles E. Banks' typescript volumes entitled "Documents Relating to Martha's Vineyard," owned and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, and by the same author, The History of Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts, in Three Volumes (Boston, 1911; Edgartown, 1925).

CHOCKSETT Church (see Sterling, First).

CHRISTIANTOWN (Manitouwatootan) (or Ohkonkemme) Praying Town and Indian Church (see West Tisbury, Christiantown Praying Town and Indian Church).

CLAPBOARD TREES Parish (see Westwood).

COHASSET, First Parish Church (U).

The church was gathered as the Church of the Second Parish in Hingham on Dec. 12, 1721, the parish having been organized some nine months earlier. In 1770, the area was made the town of Cohasset, and church and parish took the title of First Church and Parish.

Ministers:	Nehemiah Hobart	(ord. 1721; d. 1740)
	John Fowle	(ord. 1741; disp. 1746; d. 1764)
	John Brown	(ord. 1747; d. 1791)
	Josiah Shaw	(ord. 1792; disp. 1796; d. 1847)
	Jacob Flint	(ord. 1798; d. 1835)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Jacob	(e. 1721/22; res. 1749)
	Joseph Bates	(e. 1726/27)
	Lazarus Beal	(e. 1737; res. 1756)
	Jonathan Beal	(e. 1749)
	Isaac Lincoln III	(e. 1754)
	Amos Joy	(e. 1756; res. 1781)
	Abel Kent	(e. 1777; d. 1826)
	Thomas Brown	(e. 1777, may have refused)
	Isaac Burr	(e. 1781; d. 1787)
	Job Cushing	(e. 1787; res. 1793)
	Uriah Lincoln	(e. 1793; d. 1826)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1721-1742.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - Church Records, 1741-1792.

CR III - "Church Records." 1792-1820.

CR IV - "Rev. Jacob Flint, His Book." 1820-1835.

CR I, II, III, IV COPY - "Copies of the Minister's Books of Records." Fairly complete but disorderly copy of church records, 1721-1835.

CR V - "Parish [sic] Records, No. 1." Church records, 1835-1898.

CR V DUP - "Minister's Book of Records." Partial duplicate of CR V, 1842-1894.

PR I - "First Parish Church in Cohasset, Parish Clerk's Book No. 1 - 1825-97 incl." 1825-1897.

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1. See HINGHAM, First Parish, VS I(10) for Nehemiah Hobart's records, included in that volume, 1721-1747.



PR II - "Ditto No. 2 - 1898-1942." Parish records, 1898-1942.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1825-1914; Pew Tax Accounts, 1899.

COLD SPRING, Church (see Belchertown).

COLRAIN (C).

The church was gathered under Presbyterian auspices late in 1750, when the Boston Presbytery authorized a Pelham minister to ordain elders at Colrain. Between 1780 and 1795, there were several Baptist separations from the church. On Dec. 9, 1819, the church voted to adopt Congregational principles.

Ministers:	Alexander McDowell	(ord. 1753; disp. 1761; d. 1761-1762)
	Daniel McClellen	(ord. 1769; d. 1773)
	Samuel Taggart	(sett. 1777; disp. 1818- 1819; d. 1825)

Ruling elders and deacons: because of the lack of records, only a few names are known, all of them deacons.

Hugh Riddle	(m. 1772)
Thomas Morris	(m. 1772)
Alexander Harroun	(m. 1785)
Moses Johnson	(m. 1795)
John Hulbert	(m. 1803)

Virtually all records have been destroyed by fire, the one exception being owned and held by the church.

SR/CR - "Records: Cong. Society, Colerain." Society and church records, 1866-1941.

See also Karlton C. Johnson et al., The Venerable House, 1750-1950: The Story of the Congregational Church, Colrain, Massachusetts (Springfield, 1950), and Colrain Bicentennial, 1761-1961, August 5 and 6, 1961 (n.p., 1961).

COMASSAKUMKANET Indian Church (see Bourne, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church).

#### CONCORD, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on July 5, 1636, the parish having been organized the previous year. The Trustees of the Congregational Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1813, and the parish reorganized in 1826.

A separation in 1745 led to the founding of Concord's Second or West Church, the surviving members of which were absorbed by the church of the town by 1765.

Ministers:	Peter Bulkeley	(ord. teacher 1637; d. 1659)
	John Jones	(ord. pastor 1637; rem. 1644; d. 1665)
	Edward Bulkeley	(sett. 1659; d. 1694)
	Joseph Estabrook	(ord. 1667; d. 1711)
	John Whiting	(ord. 1712; diss. 1737; served Concord's Second Church from 1745; d. 1752)
	Daniel Bliss	(ord. 1739; d. 1764)
	William Emerson	(ord. 1766; d. 1776)
	Ezra Ripley	(ord. 1778; d. 1841)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: nothing is known of lay personnel prior to 1739, when the extant records begin.

Joseph Dakin	(m. 1739; d. 1744)
Samuel Merriam	(m. 1739; d. 1766)



Samuel Miles	(m. 1739; separated to the Second or West Church in 1745; m. 1748)
Samuel Heywood	(m. 1739; d. 1750)
Ephraim Brown, Jr.	(e. 1744; d. 1788)
Samuel Minot	(e. 1744; m. 1765)
Amos Heald	(e. 1751; m. 1762)
Thomas Barrett	(e. 1766; d. 1779)
Simon Hunt	(e. 1766; d. 1791)
David Wheeler	(e. 1766; d. 1784)
George Minot	(e. 1779; d. 1808)
John White	(e. 1784; res. 1827)
William Parkman	(e. 1788; res. 1826)
Joseph Chandler	(e. 1791; res. 1811)

There are no records antedating 1739. Unless otherwise noted, the extant records are owned by the church and parish, and deposited in a local bank.

CR I - "A Book of Records for The Chh of Concord 1739." 1739-1857.

CR I COPY - "Concord Church Records 1739 to 1857." MS copy made in 1891. Owned and held by the Concord Free Library.

CR II - "Records First Church in Concord Ms." 1858-1899, with vital statistics to the present. Held by the church.

Miscellaneous church records: Church Treasurer's (Deacon's) Accounts, 1789-1920; "Record of Funds belonging to the Church in Concord," 1793-1867; Singing Fund Accounts, 1814-1925.

PR I - "Volume 1. Records of the First Parish in Concord. 1855-1894. The records before 1855 were kept by the Town Clerk with the Town records."<sup>1</sup>

PR II - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Parish in Concord, Mass. Book number 2.") 1894-1953.

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1. Besides parish records, this volume contains records of the society, 1867-1901. The latter body, still in existence, is comprised of persons related to the church although not church or parish members.

CONCORD, Second (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Dec. 12, 1745 by persons dissatisfied with the New Light activities of Rev. Daniel Bliss of the First Church and Parish. Styling themselves the Second or West Church, these Old Light Separates came also to be known as "The Black Horse Church" by reason of their being forced to meet in the tavern of that name, all public buildings being closed to them. With the death of their minister, the members were gradually reabsorbed into the older church, a process completed about 1765.<sup>1</sup>

Minister: John Whiting (ord. Concord First Church 1712; dism. 1737; served Concord Second from 1745; d. 1752)

Ruling elders and deacons: in the absence of any records, the only name that has survived is that of Samuel Miles who resigned his deaconship at Concord First Church in 1745 to join the Separates.

CONCORD, Black Horse [Tavern] Church (see Concord, Second Church).

CONCORD, West Church (see Concord, Second Church).

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1. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 112-113, misreads the ambiguous account given in Emil Oberholzer, Jr.'s Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), pp. 107-108, and so reports erroneously that no Separate church was formed at Concord.



CONCORD, Lexington and Weston, Second Precinct (see Lincoln).

CONWAY, United (C).

The church was gathered on July 4, 1768, and the First Congregational Society organized in 1833. The union with local Methodist and Baptist bodies dates from 1919, at which time the church was incorporated.

Minister: John Emerson (ord. 1769; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: listing based on published sources, due to lack of early records.

Joel Dickinson	(e. 1770)
Ebenezer Allis	(e. 1770)
Samuel Wells	(e. 1773)
Joel Baker	(e. 1773; d. 1817)
Caleb Allen	(e. 1777)
John Avery	(e. 1777)
Jonathan Root	(m. 1787; d. 1808)
William Billings, Jr.	(e. 1796)

Also reported to have served as deacons are William Billings (d. 1812), Elisha Billings (d. 1825) and Nathaniel Norton.

There are no records antedating 1821. The extant records are owned by the church and deposited in the local public library.

CR I - "Records of The Congregational Church in Conway, Commencing with the Settlement of the Rev. Edward Hitchcock, June 21st, 1821." 1821-1841.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in Conway, Commencing with the Settlement of Rev. M. G. Wheeler, June 19, 1834." 1834-1915.

C REG I, II, III, IV - Church Registers, 1851-1860, 1862-1870, 1869-1943, 1881-1886.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1833-1863, 1878-1920.

See also The Confession of Faith, and Covenant of the Congregational Church in Conway, Mass., with a Catalogue of Surviving Members, July 1840 (Northampton, 1840); Celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Conway Massachusetts, At Conway, June 19th, 1867 (Northampton, 1867); the church Manuals (Springfield, 1870; Shelburne Falls, Mass., 1915); and Charles S. Pease, History of Conway (Massachusetts), 1767-1917 (Springfield, 1917).

COTUHTIKUT (or Kehtehticut) Indian Church (see Middleboro, Titicut Indian Church).

CUMMINGTON, First (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on July 7, 1779. Its Society was dissolved in 1834, and the church itself became extinct in 1869.

Minister: James Briggs (ord. 1779; d. 1825)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Ebenezer Snell	(e. 1779)
	Barnabas Packard	(e. 1779; m. 1794)
	James Bradish	(m. 1780)
	Abel Packard, Jr.	(e. 1798)
	Benoni Pratt	(e. 1798)



The records are held by the local library.

CR I - "Church Record of the First Congregational Society in Cummington. 1779-1834." 1779-1780, 1790, 1792, 1825-1827, 1837-1868.

SR I - "Church [sic] and Town Records, 1834-1857." Society records, rates, accounts.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1834.

See also Jacob Porter, "Some Accounts of Cummington, in Hampshire County, Massachusetts," MHSC, 2nd Ser., X (1823, rep. 1843), 41-45, and Almon Dyer's MS history of the church (1929) owned and held by the local library.

#### DALTON (C).

The church was gathered on Feb. 16, 1785, the town having been organized the preceding year in the area known as Ashuelot or Ashuelot Equivalent.

Ministers:	James Thompson	(ord. 1795; disp. 1799)
	Ebenezer Jennings	(ord. 1802; disp. 1834; d. 1859)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Deacon William Williams	(Hatfield deacon; e. here 1785; d. 1807-1808)
	Josiah Lawrence II	(e. 1785; d. <u>ca.</u> 1802)
	Deacon John Partridge	(deacon elsewhere; e. here <u>ca.</u> 1795; rem. 1804; returned 1807 and served as deacon until rem. 1818)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited at Crane & Co., Dalton.

CR I - "Church Records, Commencing 1785." 1785-1856.

CR I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke and George S. Frink, "Dalton, Mass. Records of the Congregational Church." Copy made in 1904, owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1856-1908.

PR I - "Parish Records." 1807/1828-1886.

Miscellaneous records: Church Register of baptisms, 1892-1900; admissions, 1827-1910.

DANE STREET Church and Society (see Beverly).

DANVERS, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 19, 1689 as the Church at Salem Village (The Farms).<sup>1</sup> The First Parish in Salem Village had been incorporated in 1672. When the area became the town of Danvers in 1752, the title of the church was accordingly changed, and the parish became known as the First or North Parish in Danvers. In 1838 the First Religious Society was incorporated; the church itself was incorporated in 1890 and again in 1932. The church had a proto-existence from 1671, being ministered to by James Bailey (ord. 1671; rem. 1680; d. 1707), George Burroughs (ord. 1680; rem. 1683; resett. 1690; d. 1692), and Deodat Lawson (sett. 1683; rem. 1688; d. post 1698), all of whom were actually "stated supplies."

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1. The fact of Bailey and Burroughs' ordinations has led some authorities wrongly to believe that the church was gathered in 1671-1672. See Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 24-25, 47, 124, 246.



Ministers:	Samuel Parris	(ord. 1689; res. 1696; d. 1719/20)
	George Burroughs	(resett. 1690; d. 1692, executed for witchcraft)
	Joseph Green	(ord. 1698; d. 1715)
	Peter Clark	(ord. 1717; d. 1768)
	Benjamin Wadsworth, D.D.	(ord. 1772; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: prior to the gathering of the church, as early as 1679 the town annually "supplied the place of Deacons" with men who were charged to manage religious prudential concerns, another indication that the community did not regard the church as properly gathered until 1689. The names of these town-elected "deacons" were Thomas Putnam and Jonathan Walcott (e. 1680, 1681, 1682); Putnam and Nathaniel Ingersoll (e. 1684/85); Ingersoll and Walcott (e. 1687). See "A Book of Records of the Severall Publique Transa[c]tions of the Inhabitants of Sale[m] Village Vulgarly Called The Farme[s]," DHSHC, XIII (1925), 91-122.

Nathaniel Ingersoll	(e. 1690; d. 1719)
Edward Putnam	(e. 1690; d. 1747)
Benjamin Putnam	(e. 1709; d. 1714)
Eleazar Putnam	(e. 1717/18; d. 1732-1733)
Nathaniel Putnam	(e. 1731; d. 1754)
Joseph Whipple	(e. 1733; d. 1740)
Cornelius Tarbell	(e. 1741; d. 1765)
Archelaus Putnam	(e. 1756; d. 1759)
Samuel Putnam, Jr.	(e. 1757; rem. 1762)
Asa Putnam	(e. 1762; d. 1795)
Edmund Putnam	(e. 1762; d. 1810)
Gideon Putnam	(e. 1785; d. 1810-1811)
Daniel Putnam	(e. 1795; d. 1801)
Joseph Putnam	(e. 1802; d. 1818)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records First Church Danvers 1689-1845." Running records as dated. Vital statistics: births to 1698; baptisms to 1845; owners of covenant to 1815; admissions to 1845; marriages to 1712; deaths to 1703.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Extracts from the church records, 1691/92-1694, were published by Joseph B. Felt, "Salem Witchcraft," MHSC, 3rd Ser., III (1833), 169-180.



CR I PUB - William T. Harris, "Danvers Church Records," NEHGR, XI (1857), 131-135, 316-325, XII (1858), 245-248, XIII (1859), 55-56. Largely epitomizations of church acts, 1689-1753.

VS I - Henry Wheatland, "Baptisms at Church in Salem Village, now North Parish, Danvers," EIHC, XVI (1879), 235-240, 302-318, XVIII (1881), 34-48, 121-128. 1689-1772.

VS II - Samuel P. Fowler, "Rev. Samuel Parris's Record of Deaths at Salem Village during His Ministry," NEHGR, XXXVI (1882), 187-189.

VS III - "Danvers Church Records," DHSHC, XII (1924), 127-128. Admissions, 1690-1797; dismissions, 1683-1758.

CR II - "Records of The First Church Danvers From 1845, to ." 1845-1908.

PR I - "Book of Records." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Records Of the Severall Publique Transactions of the Inhabitants of Salem Village Vulgarly called the Farmes. Beginning at the time when the first [torn] the Ministry amongst them by order from [torn] Generall Court October the 8th Anno Domini [torn].") 1671/72-1735.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1735-1766.

PR III - "The Third Book of Records Relating the Severall Publick Transactions of the Inhabitants of the First Parish of Danvers: formerly called, Salem Village." 1766-1780.

PR IV - "Danvers North Parish Feb<sup>y</sup> 23 1781." 1780-1797.

PR V - "Parish Book." 1797-1815.

PR VI - MISSING, Parish Records, 1815-1838.

SR VII - Society Records, 1838-1932.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1874-1912; Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1839, 1847-1853, 1856-1863; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1787-1813, 1806-1858, 1813-1853, 1890-1892, 1892-1905, 1891-1900; Parish Committee Records (largely orders and abatements), 1724/25-1798, 1767-1803, 1768-1804, 1804-1823; Building Committee



Records, 1785-1788; Subscription Books, 1833-1840, 1834-1839; Repair Accounts, 1888-1890; Pew Rent Accounts, 1889-1911.

See also Samuel P. Fowler, "Biographical Sketch and Diary of Rev. Joseph Green, of Salem Village," EIHC, VII (1866), 91-96, 165-174, 215-224, X (1870), 73-104, XXXVI (1900), 325-330; and Samuel E. Morison (ed.), "The Commonplace Book of Joseph Green," CSMP, XXXIV (1937-1942), 191-253.

DANVERS, North Parish (see Danvers, First).

DANVERS, Second (Parish) Church (see Peabody, South).

DANVERS, South Church and Precinct and Parish (see Peabody, South).

DARTMOUTH, Nekkehkummees Indian Church (C), extinct.

Nekkehkummees was the site of a praying town ca. 1669, and its church was gathered ca. 1690. It appears to have become extinct ca. 1730.

During its phase as a praying town, the community was ministered to by John Cotton, Jr., missionary to the

Vineyard Indians who was ordained pastor of Plymouth's First Church in 1669, and the Indian preacher Japeth Hannit, Sr. (1670-cta. 1695).  
See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	William Simon(s)	(Indian preacher, ord. on the Vineyard 1695; frequent companion of Experience Mayhew on his missionary journeys; cta. 1718)
	Samuel Hunt	(appointed minister to Dartmouth 1708, associated with two Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1729/30)
	Samuel Holms	(Indian preacher, 1711-cta. 1718)
	Thomas Simons	(Indian preacher, m. as active in this vicinity <u>ca.</u> 1770)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

DARTMOUTH, Second Precinct/Parish, and Church (see New Bedford).

DEDHAM, First Church and Parish (U).  
Allin Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 8, 1638; its First Parish was organized during the early years of the eighteenth century. Following the resignation of the incumbent minister in 1818, there ensued the historic decision between



church and parish over the choice of a successor. An orthodox minority of the parish (but a majority of the church membership), protesting the selection of a liberal candidate by the parish majority, withdrew. These orthodox, rebuffed in their attempt to win title to the meeting-house and church properties by the Dedham Decision of 1820, organized their own society and the Allin Church, and still claim descent from the 1638 body. The parish majority (with the liberal minority of the church) continued, and is still known as the First Church and Parish.

Ministers:	John Allin	(ord. 1639; d. 1671)
	William Adams	(ord. 1673; d. 1685)
	Joseph Belcher	(ord. 1693; cta. 1721; d. 1723)
	Samuel Dexter	(ord. 1724; d. 1755)
	Jason Haven	(ord. 1756; d. 1803)
	Joshua Bates, D.D.	(ord. 1803; dism. 1818; d. 1854)

Ruling elder: John Hunting (e. 1639; d. 1688)

Deacons:	Henry Chickering	(e. 1650; d. 1671)
	Nathan Aldis	(e. 1650; d. 1676)
	John Aldis	(m. 1673; d. 1700)
	Thomas Metcalf	(d. 1702)
	William Avery	(d. 1708)
	Joseph Wight	(d. 1729)
	Jonathan Metcalf	(d. 1731 ?)
	Joseph Fairbanks	(d. 1734)
	John Metcalf	(e. 1727; d. 1749)
	Joseph Wight	(e. 1727; d. 1756)
	Jonathan Onion	(d. 1758)
	Ephraim Willson	(e. 1735; d. 1769)
	Richard Everett	(e. 1735; d. 1746)
	Nathaniel Kingsbury	(e. 1746; d. 1775)
	William Avery	(e. 1756; d. 1796)
	Ebenezer Richards	(e. 1769; res. 1793; d. 1799)
	Aaron Fuller	(e. 1776; res. 1777; re-e. 1793; d. 1816)
	Samuel Damon	(e. 1776; res. 1777)
	Joseph Whiting	(e. 1777; d. 1806)
	Isaac Bullard	(e. 1780; d. 1808)
	Capt. Jonathan Richards	(e. 1804; res. 1819)

The records are owned by the Unitarian body, and deposited at the Dedham Historical Society.



CR I - "Dedham First Church. Records. Vol. I." 1638-1671.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1671-1724.

CR III - "Dedham First Church. Records. Vol. II." 1724-1791.

CR IV - "This book of Church Records begins Janry 1st, 1792." 1792-1803.

CR V - "Records of the First Church in Dedham." 1803-1821.

CR V DUP - "Church Records." 1803-1806, discarded after votes were copied into CR V.

CR VI - "Records of the First Church in Dedham." 1818-1861.

CR PUB I-VI - Don G. Hill (ed.), The Record of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, and Admissions to the Church and Dismissals Therefrom, Transcribed from the Church Records in the Town of Dedham, Massachusetts. 1638-1845. ("Dedham Historical Record Series," Vol. II) (Dedham, 1888). Hill publishes all of CR I; Cr II was missing long before he undertook his work. From CR III, IV, V, and VI, he publishes only vital statistics (to 1845).

CR VII - Church Records, 1861-1908.

PR I - "The Book of Records for the First Precinct in Dedham." 1731-1763.

PR II - "Records of the First Parish in Dedham, New England." 1763-1807.

PR III - Parish Records, 1807-1839.

PR IV - "Records of the First Parish in Dedham, commencing A.D. 1840." 1840-1903.

Miscellaneous records: Deacon's Accounts, 1767-1830; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1674-1769 (with earlier memoranda), 1761-1808, 1866-1904; Pew Rate Book, 1853.

See also F. M. Caulkins, "Memoir of the Rev. Williams, of Dedham, Mass., and of the Rev. Eliphalet Adams, of New London, Conn.," MHSC, 4th Ser., I (1852), 5-51, containing



William Adams' Diary; and "Extracts from the Diary of Rev. Samuel Dexter of Dedham," NEHGR, XIII (1859), 305-310, XIV (1860), 35-40, 107-112, 202-205. Information on deacons of the Dedham area is also contained in John F. Whiting, "Diary of John Whiting of Dedham, Mass., 1743-1784," ibid., LXIII (1909), 185-192, 261-265.

DEDHAM, Clapboard Trees Parish (see Westwood).

DEDHAM, Fourth Parish (see Dover).

DEDHAM, Second Church (see Westwood).

DEDHAM, Second Precinct, Parish (see Norwood).

DEDHAM, South Precinct, Parish, Church (see Norwood).

DEDHAM, Springfield Parish (see Dover).

DEDHAM, Third Parish (see Westwood).

DEDHAM, Tiot Parish (see Norwood).

DEDHAM, West Church and Precinct (see Dover).

DEDHAM, West Parish (see Westwood).

DEERFIELD, First Church (U/C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 17, 1688, and the First Parish organized in 1825. In 1835, the orthodox minority of the church withdrew, forming their own church and, three years later, a society. In 1947, the two churches rejoined on a nondenominational basis.



Ministers: John Williams (ord. 1688; d. 1729)  
 Jonathan Ashley (ord. 1732; d. 1780)  
 John Taylor (sett. 1787; dism. 1806;  
 d. 1840)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of records, the names of only four officers have been found. Deacon David Hoyt died a captive of the Indians, and Deacon Thomas French, also captured, was redeemed, ca. 1703. The diary of Deacon Noah Wright for the years ca. 1746 has been published by Stephen W. Williams, "Indian Wars," NEHGR, II (1848), 207-210. The Rowe Church Records mention a Deacon Asabel Wright of Deerfield in 1787.

Frederick L. Weis in 1941 reported the seventeenth century church records as destroyed in the burning of the town in 1704.<sup>1</sup> Emil Oberholzer, Jr. reported using two volumes of Deerfield church records (1688-1733, 1733-1803) in his study of discipline published in 1956.<sup>2</sup> The present writer was unable to locate any records antedating 1807, either at the Greenfield bank where the church-owned extant records are deposited, at the church, or at the Pocumtuck Valley Historical Association, Deerfield.

CR - "Records of the Church in Deerfield, Transcribed from the old Book of Church records in the year 1809 By Rev. Samuel Willard, D.D." 1807-1933.

PR I - "Records of the first congregational Parish in the Town of Deerfield, - County of Franklin - Commonwealth of Massachusetts." 1803-1923.

Miscellaneous records: Records of the Orthodox Congregational Church and Society of 1835/1838, from inception to 1947 reunion with the Unitarian body.

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1. "Early Records of the Seventeenth Century Churches in Massachusetts Which Became Unitarian," UHSP, VII, ii (1941), 19.

2. Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 344 and passim.



DENNIS, First (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on June 22, 1727 as the Church in the East Precinct of Yarmouth (set off in 1721). In 1793, the precinct was incorporated as the town of Dennis, and the church's name was appropriately changed.

Dennis soon developed two distinct centers of population, and church attendance was divided between the town's two meetinghouses, the one at North (Old) Dennis, the other at South Dennis. Not until 1817 was a Second Church gathered; it was located in South Dennis.

In 1829, the North (now First) Parish (incorporated 1798) invited a liberal candidate to settle in the ministry; in protest, the orthodox majority of that church withdrew, forming a short-lived Trinitarian North Church and Third Congregational Society. The Unitarian First Church and Parish began to dwindle in membership, becoming extinct ca. 1860.

Ministers:	Josiah Dennis	(ord. 1727; d. 1763)
	Nathan Stone	(ord. 1764; d. 1804)
	Caleb Holmes	(ord. 1805; d. 1813)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Deacon Joseph Hall <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1727 ?; d. 1737)
	Ebenezer Paddock	(d. 1768)
	Daniel Hall	(m. 1740; d. 1768-1769)
	John Sears	(e. 1768)
	Joseph Howe II	(e. 1769)
	Anthony Howes	(e. 1782; dism. and rem. 1788)
	Stephen Sears	(e. 1789; <sup>2</sup> d. 1815)
	Joseph Howes	(e. 1789)

The records are owned and held by the Town Clerk.

CR I - "To be returned to Hiram Hall Dennis Barnstable Co. Mass." Some church records, 1727-1809; vital statistics: baptisms, 1727-1733, 1752-1809; admissions, 1727-1809; dismissions, 1766-1802.

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1. Previously a deacon at Yarmouth First, now Yarmouth, Port.

2. Nathan Hall was elected a deacon prior to 1814, but whether prior to 1805 is not known.



CR I PUB - Samuel P. May, "Records of the Church at East Yarmouth, Now Dennis, Mass.," GA, II (1899), 33-38, 71-77, III (1900), 17-21, 85-88, IV (1901), 47-49, 118-122, 129-147. Complete except for omission of observances of the Lord's Supper listed in CR I.

CR II - "Church Records by Joseph Haven Pastor Commencing 1814." Some church records, 1814-1850; vital statistics: baptisms, 1814-1845; admissions, 1815-1845; marriages, 1814-1849; deaths, 1814-1850; also church treasurer's accounts, 1814-1838.

PR I - "The Book of Records for the East Precinct in Yarmouth April y<sup>e</sup> 9 Ann<sup>o</sup> Dom: 1722." Precinct/parish records, 1722-1813.

DENNIS, North Church (see Dennis, First).

DIGHTON, First (C).

The church was gathered in 1710 as the Church in the South Precinct of Taunton. The precinct (incorporated in 1709) became the town of Dighton in 1712, and the church's name was duly changed. When the original meetinghouse burned in 1767, its successor was located at Buck Plain, in protest against which location persons living in the southern and eastern parts of the town withdrew and organized their own worship services.<sup>1</sup> Attempts to reunite the two bodies as one church were dropped after 1800. As for the original or First Church, its First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1803, the name being changed to Central Congregational Society in 1828.

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1. See DIGHTON, Pedit-Baptist Congregational Society.

Ministers: Nathaniel Fisher (ord. 1710; d. 1777)  
 John Smith (ord. 1772; rem. 1800;  
 d. 1820)  
 William Warren (ord. 1802; dism. 1815;  
 excommunicated 1820; d. 1836)

Ruling elders and deacons: in the absence of early church records, the names of only four officers have survived. The church probably did not employ ruling elders. The known deacons are:

Abraham Hathaway (d. 1725)  
 Jared Talbot (d. 1733/34)  
 Nathan Walker (d. 1771)  
 Gideon Babbitt (d. 1832)

All records antedating 1815 are believed to have been taken or destroyed by the third minister at the time of his excommunication.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1815-1916.<sup>1</sup>

See also Samuel H. Emery, The Ministry of Taunton, with Incidental Notices of Other Professions (Boston, 1853), 2 vols.; Town of Taunton Bi-Centennial 1712-1912 (Taunton, 1912); Committee on Genealogy of the First Congregational Church, Dighton, Mass., 1708-1958 Dighton, Past and Present Genealogical Notes of Members of the First Congregational Church of Dighton, Massachusetts (n.p., 1958).

DIGHTON, Pedit-Baptist Congregational Society (U).

Members of Dighton's First Church who were displeased by the location of the second meetinghouse, withdrew in 1767 and commenced erecting their own building in the Lower Village, more accessible to the southern and eastern parts

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1. Reported in good condition by Carroll D. Wright, Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties (Boston, 1889), p. 18.



of the town. The project was suspended during the Revolutionary War, although appeals for abatement of taxes supporting the First Church's ministry were forwarded as early as 1770 and worship services already in progress. Whether there was a church gathered here in 1776 is uncertain; Ezra Stiles is known to have ministered here in 1776-1777.<sup>1</sup> The Pedo-Baptist Congregational Society was organized in 1769, but did not receive incorporation from the General Court until 1798. It seems likely that the church was formally gathered at the time of the first minister's ordination, Sept. 23, 1803, or shortly before that event. It has sometimes been called the South Church in Dighton.

Minister: Abraham Gushee (ord. 1803; res. 1860; d. 1861)

Ruling elders and deacons: no names of lay officers have survived.

No church records are extant. The society records are owned and held by the church.

SR I - "Book of Records belonging to the Congregational Society in the South Parish - Dighton." 1797-1901.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1861-1873.

DIGHTON, Buck-Plain Meeting House (see Dighton, First).

DIGHTON, Central Congregational Society (see Dighton, First).

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1. See the bibliographical references for DIGHTON, First; also George L. Thompson, Year Book and Directory The Unitarian Church Dighton, Mass. Organized as the Pedo-Baptist Congregational Society in 1769 (n.p., 1935).

DIGHTON, Lower Village (see Dighton, Peto-Baptist).

DIGHTON, North Parish and Church (see Dighton, First).

DIGHTON, South Parish and Church (see Dighton, Peto-Baptist).

DORCHESTER, First Church and Parish (see Boston, Dorchester).

DORCHESTER, South Precinct (see Canton).

DORCHESTER, South Precinct (a part of) (see Stoughton).



## DOUGLAS, First, East (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 11, 1747; the Congregational Society was incorporated in 1806.

Ministers: William Phips {ord. 1747; dism. 1765; d. 1798}  
Isaac Stone {ord. 1771; dism. 1805; d. 1837}

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Thomas Cook {e. 1748; res. 1752}  
John Marsh {e. 1748}  
Jeremiah Whiting {e. 1752; d. 1800}  
Capt. Caleb Hill {e. 1752; d. 1788}  
Micah Whitney {rem. 1785}  
Josiah Reed {e. 1788; rem. 1789}<sup>1</sup>

The records are owned by the church, and deposited in a local bank.

CR I - "The Book of Church Records For the Chh. of Christ, in Douglas." 1748-1843.

SR I - Society Records, 1806-1853.

## DOVER (U/C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 7, 1762 as the West Church in Dedham, the West Precinct in Dedham having been incorporated in 1748. Variouslly known as the Fourth Parish in Dedham and as Springfield Parish, this body was retitled

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1. No other deacons were elected prior to 1805, due to refusals of nominees (prompted by the ministers' proclivity for quarreling with their deacons. It is not known if Peter White, elected a deacon in 1791, accepted the post; one is inclined to think not. Until Stone's removal, the church had to content itself with assigning diaconal tasks on an ad hoc basis to nonofficers.

the First Parish when Dover was made a town in 1784. The orthodox withdrew to form a Second Church in 1839, but in recent years the two bodies have federated into a single church.

Minister: Benjamin Caryl (ord. 1762; d. 1811)

Ruling elders and deacons: no records of lay personnel survives.

Virtually no records antedating the present century are extant. The surviving materials are owned and held by the church. From the Unitarian side are:

PR - "Records of The First Parish in Dover, 1893." 1893-1940.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1859-1901; Records of Trustees of the Barden Fund, 1872-1923.

From the Congregational side are:

SR - "Record of Second Congregational Society, Dover, Mass., commencing 1878." 1878-1921.

See also the Manual published by the Congregational body (Boston, 1883; Needham, 1891).

#### DRACUT, Christ Church United (C).

The church was gathered on March 20, 1720/21. Recurrent disagreements over the most suitable location of the meetinghouse resulted in 1794 in the first separation from the original body. In this year, the building variously denominated the Centre or Central or "Old Yellow" Meeting House was erected to house the activities of the church thereafter known as Central Congregational Church. Dissatisfied residents of western Dracut thereupon withdrew, and built themselves a house of worship more conveniently located on the site of the present Pawtucket Church of Lowell.



A more critical division came in 1834, this time on doctrinal grounds. The majority of the church, being strongly orthodox in matters of belief, withdrew and in the same year incorporated their own body of Proprietors and Society. This church took the name of The (First) Evangelical Congregational Church, built and occupied the Hillside Meetinghouse, retaining whatever church records were then extant.<sup>1</sup>

The First Parish and a remnant of the Central Church continued at the "Old Yellow" Meeting House, but the interest in Unitarianism appears to have been short-lived. In 1834, the First Parish voted the use of the meetinghouse to local Unitarians, Calvinists, Methodists and (in 1835) Baptists, in proportion to the monies subscribed for the upkeep of the building. By 1847, the Unitarian movement had entirely disappeared, and the church reorganized on specifically orthodox doctrinal grounds, retaining the extant parish records.

In 1969, the First Parish Church and The First Evangelical Congregational Church merged under the name of Christ Church United.

Ministers:	Thomas Parker	(ord. 1720/21; d. 1765)
	Nathan Davis	(ord. 1765; dism. 1781; d. 1803)
	Solomon Aiken	(ord. 1788; dism. 1814; d. 1832)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	----- Howard	(m. 1714)
	Ebenezer Goodhue	(m. 1739)
	Robert Colburn	(m. 1745)
	Edward Colburn	(m. 1749)
	Nathaniel Fox	(m. 1749)
	Amos Bradley	(m. 1781-1794)
	Thomas Hovey	(m. 1788; d. 1826)

There are no church records antedating 1787, and all extant records are owned and held by Christ Church United.

CR I - "A Record of the public Transactions of the Church in Dracutt And those matters which concern the Church Beginning September 27, 1787." Largely vital statistics, and some votes, 1787-1814.

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1. For many years, First Evangelical erroneously claimed 1717 as its year of gathering. The First Parish sometimes claimed the date 1711, the year of the town's first vote to build a meetinghouse.



CR II - "A record of the public transactions of the church in Dracut beginning October 6th. 1815." 1815-1833.

CR III - "Church Record. 1833." "Record of the first Congregational Church in Dracut." "A record of the public transactions of the Church in Dracut beginning October the 23rd A.D. 1833." 1833-1847.

CR IV - "Catalogue of the Names of the Members of the first Evangelical Congregational Church Jan. 1, 1848." With church records, 1847-1894.

CR V - "Records of the First Evangelical Congregational Church of Dracut From June 20th 1894." 1894-1925.

SR I - "Dracutt Evangelical Congregational Society's Record Book March 8th 1834." 1834-1926.

Miscellaneous records: Records of Stock-holders for building a Meeting House, 1834-1883.

The following records are owned and held by the First Parish and Central Congregational Church.

TR I ABSTRACT - "Church History of the Town of Dracut, Mass. Gleaned from the town records Volumes 1 to 7 inclusive by John Alfred Bailey April 1928." Votes relating to parish business, 1711-1835; First Parish records, 1835-1841.

PR II - Parish Records, 1814-1865.

PR III - "Property of the First Parish in Dracut Dracut March 12, 1866." 1866-1956.

Miscellaneous records: Records of the Central Congregational Church, 1847-1919.

See also Silas R. Coburn's MS history of the stockholders, society and church (ca. 1920), owned and held by the First Evangelical (Hillside) Church; Silas R. Coburn, History of Dracut, Massachusetts, Called by the Indians Augumtoocooke and Before Incorporation, The Wilderness North of the Merrimac (Lowell, 1922); 1937 Anniversary Journal, Old Yellow Meeting House (Central Congregational Church), Dracut, Massachusetts (n.p., 1937).



DRACUT, West Church, West Society, West Parish (see Lowell).

DUDLEY (C).

The church was gathered in 1732. The First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1797, and later dissolved. The church was incorporated on Sept. 16, 1891.

Ministers:	Perley Howe	(ord. 1735; rem. 1743; d. 1753)
	Charles Gleason	(ord. 1744; d. 1790)
	Joshua Johnson	(inst. 1790; dism. 1796; d. 1820)
	Abiel Williams	(ord. 1799; res. 1831; d. 1850)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Edmunds	
	Benjamin Conant	(rem. 1763)
	Jonathan Newell	(e. 1745)
	Jacob Bradbury	(e. 1763; d. <u>ca.</u> 1795)
	Abijah Newell	(e. 1770; d. <u>ca.</u> 1795)
	Edward Davis	(e. 1770; res. 1795)
	Jason Phipps	(e. 1773; m. 1805)
	Jonathan Bacon	(e. 1795; m. 1805)

There are no records antedating 1744, a lack noted in 1845.<sup>1</sup> The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records." 1744-1831.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational church in Dudley, Mass." 1831-1891.

SR I - "Records of the Congregational Society in Dudley." 1797-1862.

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1. See Historical Notice of the Congregational Church in Dudley, with the Articles of Faith, Covenant, &c. (Worcester, 1845).



SR II - Society Records, 1863-1890.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1846-1900; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1798-1886, 1844-1881; Proprietors Records, 1833.

DUNSTABLE, Separate (C), extinct.

The partitioning of Old Dunstable (two-thirds of which was annexed to New Hampshire in 1741), saw the rise of factions contending over the location of a now-needed meetinghouse. One faction actually resided over the line in New Hampshire, the other in Massachusetts. In 1747, the "town" voted to settle New Light preacher Samuel Bird, designating the New Hampshire area as the site of the meetinghouse. The Massachusetts faction properly pointed out that the area in question was already a part of New Hampshire, that the New Hampshire legislature had not recognized "Dunstable, New Hampshire" as an incorporated town, and that Bird's settlement was therefore the act of a non-existent body.<sup>1</sup>

The New Hampshire legislature recognized the force of this argument in 1748, although the illegally-gathered church probably continued its existence to 1751; in the latter year, Bird removed to Connecticut.

Minister: Samuel Bird (sett. and ord. 1747; rem. 1751; d. 1784)

Ruling elders and deacons: there being no records of this church, nothing is known of its lay officers or membership.

See Charles J. Fox, History of the Old Township of Dunstable: Including Nashua, Nashville, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, and Merrimac, N.H.; Dunstable and Tyngsboro, Mass. (Nashua, 1846); Elias Nason, A History of the Town of Dunstable, Massachusetts, from Its Earliest Settlement

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1. The church in present-day Dunstable is the one gathered in 1757. See DUNSTABLE, First Congregational Parish, extinct, and Evangelical Congregational Church.



to the Year of Our Lord, 1873 (Boston, 1877); John W. Churchill, History of the First Church in Dunstable-Nashua, N.H. and of Later Churches There (Boston, 1918); C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 313.

DUNSTABLE, First Congregational Parish (U/U), extinct.  
Evangelical Congregational Church (C).

A church had been gathered at Old Dunstable in 1685,<sup>1</sup> but in 1741 the area (and church) was set off to New Hampshire. The ill-fated attempt to gather a church at Dunstable in 1747 is noted above. In 1755, Dunstable was divided into First and Second Parishes, and a church gathered in the Second Parish on May 12, 1757. When the First Parish became the parish of the town of Tyngsboro in 1789, the Second became the First Parish in Dunstable. It is with this latter parish (and church) that we have to do.

The religious history of Dunstable is further complicated by the doctrinal controversies of the early nineteenth century. Dunstable Universalists organized a society of their own in 1818, and like the orthodox church made use of the meetinghouse. In 1830, the orthodox withdrew from the First Parish and erected their own house of worship, and continue today as the Evangelical Congregational Church. Thereupon the First Parish reorganized (1831), assimilating the Universalists, and heard a succession of Universalist and Unitarian supplies. In 1864, the First Parish meetinghouse was destroyed by fire, and the

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1. The annexation of this area to New Hampshire accounts for the confusing entries found in Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties" (Public Document No. 52), Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897 (Boston, 1898), II, 50, 163; and Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 248, 260.



constituency of the Parish, greatly reduced in numbers, reorganized, but soon after became extinct. The Evangelical Congregational Church constitutes the only surviving remnant of the 1757 church and First Parish.

Ministers: Josiah Goodhue (ord. 1757; dism. 1774;  
d. 1797)  
Supplies (1774-1799)  
Joshua Heywood (ord. 1799; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: Deacon Zebedee Kendall (e. 1794; d. 1839)  
Deacon Joel Parkhurst (e. 1794; d. 1808)<sup>1</sup>

Deacons: Ebenezer Sherwin (e. 1757; m. 1759)  
Samuel Taylor (e. 1758; d. 1792)  
Joseph Fletcher (e. 1764; d. 1784)  
Elijah Robbins (e. 1789; m. 1800)  
Zebedee Kendall (e. 1789; elev. to ruling  
elder 1794; d. 1839)  
Joel Parkhurst (e. 1793; elev. to ruling  
elder 1794; d. 1808)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited at the Town Hall.

CR I - "Book A." Church records, 1757-1791.

CR II - "Book B." 1791-1834.

CR III - "Record Book." (Flyleaf: "Book C. Confession of Faith, Covenant and Rules of Discipline and Practice. Dunstable, Mass. Jany. 1. 1834. Also the Records of the Church from the above named date.") 1834-1898.

CR IV - "Book D." 1898-1912.

SR I - Society Records, 1830-1845.

SR II - Society Records, 1846-1887.

Miscellaneous records: Church and Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1868-1893; Church Committee Records, 1829-1831.

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1. The church elected ruling elders for the first and only time in 1794, but the power of this eldership was vitiated by the frequent appointment of ad hoc committees to investigate and expedite the handling of disciplinary cases.



DUNSTABLE, First Parish (see Tyngsboro).

DUNSTABLE, Second Church and Second Parish (or Precinct)  
(see Dunstable, Evangelical Congregational Church).

DUXBOROUGH (see Duxbury).

DUXBURY, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered in 1632, and the First Parish organized in 1828. A separation (partly due to opposition to New Light views held by Rev. Samuel Veazie) in 1743, was terminated with Veazie's dismissal in 1750. Incorporation of church and parish as a single entity was effected in 1940.

Ministers:	William Brewster	(Plymouth ruling elder, acting minister at Dux- bury 1632-1637; d. 1643)
	Ralph Partridge	(ord. 1637; d. 1658)
	John Holmes	(sett. 1658; d. 1675)
	Ichabod Wiswall	(ord. 1676; d. 1700)
	John Robinson	(ord. 1702; disp. 1738; d. 1745)
	Samuel Veazie	(ord. 1739; rem. 1750; d. 1797)
	Charles Turner	(ord. 1755; rem. 1775; d. 1813)
	Zedekiah Sanger, D.D.	(ord. 1776; rem. 1786; d. 1820)
	John Allyn, D.D.	(ord. 1788; d. 1833)

Ruling elders: none.<sup>1</sup>

Deacons: listing fragmentary, due to absence of early church records.

John Wadsworth <sub>2</sub>	(e. ca. 1676; d. ca. 1700)
Benjamin Alden <sub>3</sub>	(m. 1740; d. 1741)
John Wadsworth <sub>3</sub>	(m. 1741; d. 1750)
Capt. James Arnold	(e. 1741; d. 1755)
Samuel Seabury	(d. 1776)
Ezekiel Soule	(e. 1749)
Peleg Wadsworth	(e. 1755; m. 1794)
Nathaniel Simmons	(e. 1756; m. 1763)
James Southworth	(m. 1776; d. 1811)
Perez Loring	(m. 1788-1804)

The records antedating 1739 were long ago destroyed by fire; those extant are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records, 1739 to 1825."

CR II - "Records." 1826-1884; vital statistics to 1904.

PR I - "Records of the Congregational Society in Duxbury." 1828-1849.

PR II - "Parish Records. Commenced March 22d. 1850. Book No. 2." 1850-1890.

P/SR III - Society Records, 1887-1899.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' and Treasurer's Accounts, 1828-1891; Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1880-1885; Parish Committee Accounts, 1837-1853; Record of Pew Sales (1840) and Building Committee (1843).

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1. So far as is known, the church never employed ruling elders. Brewster, of course, was ruling elder at Plymouth, and his ministry at Duxbury (like that of Plymouth) did not include the exercise of sacramental duties. See Increase N. Tarbox, "Ruling Elders in the Early New-England Churches," CQ, XIV - New Ser., IV (1872), 405.

2. See George E. Bowman, "Deacon Benjamin Alden's Estate - Widow Hannah Alden's Death - Elizabeth Alden's Estate," MD, XXIV (1922), 74-81.

3. See "Deacon John Wadsworth's Estate," op. cit., XXI (1919), 89-93.



## EAST BRIDGEWATER, First Parish (U).

Made a town in 1656, Bridgewater originally contained present-day Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, and West Bridgewater, the oldest church dating from 1664. In 1716 the area was divided into northern and southern precincts, the latter becoming modern Bridgewater. Since the original church lay in the northern section, a church was gathered in the southern precinct in 1718. The northern precinct was divided into duly incorporated eastern and western precincts in 1723, the 1664 church falling to the latter area. The eastern precinct now moved to gather a church of its own, accomplished on Oct. 28, 1724<sup>1</sup> under the name of the Third Church in Bridgewater.

This eastern precinct was made the town of East Bridgewater in 1823, and the following year the parish incorporated as the First Parish, the church taking the title of First Church.

Ministers: John Angier (ord. 1724; d. 1787)  
 Samuel Angier (ord. colleague 1767; dism. 1804; d. 1805)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Recompence Cary (e. 1724-1725; ord. 1725; d. 1759)  
 James Cary<sup>2</sup> (e. 1724-1725; ord. 1725; d. 1762)  
 Capt. Thomas Whitman (e. 1748; ord. 1749; d. 1788)  
 Seth Allen (e. 1748; ord. 1749; d. 1760)  
 Zacharias Shaw (e. 1760; d. 1790)

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1. Some authorities claim the church was gathered on Feb. 28, 1723; e.g., Joseph S. Clark, A Historical Sketch of the Congregational Churches in Massachusetts, from 1620 to 1858 (Boston, 1858), p. 137, and Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 248. The extant church records, however, show that the covenanting took place on Oct. 28, 1724, at the time of John Angier's ordination.

2. See "James Cary His Book 1720," MD, XXXII (1934), 156-162.

Nathaniel Edson (e. 1778; d. 1784)  
 John Whitman, Jr. (e. 1778; res. 1808)  
 Capt. Nathan Alden (e. 1784; d. 1807)

The records are owned by the church and parish, and deposited in a local bank.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1724-1752.

CR I COPY - "The Sewing Circle connected with the first Parish in East Bridgewater will please to accept this copy of the Records of the Church from their old friend Bathsheba Whitman. Lexington, May 31, 1853." Copy made in 1853 of CR I, 1724-1852; contains only vital statistics and notices of diaconal elections.

VS I PUB - Henry F. Jenks, "Record of Marriages Solemnized in the East Parish of Bridgewater, Mass. From March 4, 1725, to August 3, 1803, by the Rev. John Angier (settled 1724, died April 14, 1787), and the Rev. Samuel Angier, his son and colleague (settled 1767, died Jan. 18, 1805)," NEHGR, XLV (1891), 12-14, 142-145, 244-246, XLVI (1892), 55-57, 167-171.

PR I - "A Book of Records Belonging To The East Precinct in Bridgewater." 1723/24-1824.

PR II - "Record of the First Parish in East Bridgewater - 1824." 1824-1871.

PR III - "Records First Parish E. Bridgewater." 1872-1931.

EAST DOUGLAS (see Douglas).

EAST GRANVILLE, Church and Parish (see Granville, First, Federated, Center).



## EASTHAM, First or North (C), extinct.

The original church at Eastham was gathered in 1646, and its meetinghouse located at Nauset (now in Eastham). In 1718, the first house of worship was replaced with one more commodious, located in what is now Orleans. The following year the town was divided into northern and southern precincts, and the minister elected to remain with the Orleans congregation, deeming it to be the continuing body. The residents of the northern precinct either continued or else covenanted anew.<sup>1</sup>

In 1723, the northern precinct was itself cut into a northern precinct (eventually to become Wellfleet) and a "Central Precinct" (which retained the name of Eastham when Wellfleet and Orleans achieved townhood). It is the history of the church of the "Central Precinct," latterly Eastham, that concerns us here.

The last settled minister closed his pastorate in 1859; by 1864 the meetinghouse had been sold, and the church's career was at an end.

Ministers:	John Mayo	(sett. 1646; rem. 1655; d. 1676)
	Thomas Crosby	(sett. 1655-1670 as "religious teacher," probably unord.; d. 1702)
	Samuel Treat	(ord. 1675; d. 1717)
	Samuel Osborn	(ord. 1718; remained 1719 with South [Orleans] Precinct and church; d. 1774)
	Benjamin Webb	(ord. 1720; d. 1746)
	Edward Cheever	(inst. 1751; d. 1794)
	Philander Shaw	(ord. 1795; d. 1841)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the loss of all records many years ago, it is not known if the church employed ruling elders. The names of five deacons have survived in secondary sources, but it is not known whether they stayed or removed once the Orleans church was set off in 1719.<sup>2</sup>

Deacons:	John Paine	(m. 1695-1718)
	Thomas Crosby	(d. 1731)
	Edward Knowles	(d. 1740)
	Samuel Freeman	(m. 1746; d. 1753)
	John Freeman	(m. 1750-1755)

1. In the absence of records, it is impossible to determine whether either church began de novo in 1719.

2. See "Deacon John Paine's Journal," MD, VIII (1906), 180-184, 227-231, IX (1907), 49-51, 97-99, 136-140. The names of the other deacons are given in Pratt's and Freeman's writings, cited below.



See "A Description and History of Eastham, in the County of Barnstable. September 1802," MHSC, 1st Ser., VIII (1802, rep. 1846), 154-186; Enoch Pratt, A Comprehensive History, Ecclesiastical and Civil, of Eastham, Wellfleet and Orleans, County of Barnstable, Mass. From 1644 to 1844 (Yarmouth, 1844); Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod, 2 vols. (Boston, 1860-1862); [Ruth L. Barnard], History of The Congregational Church, Orleans, Mass. (Harwich, 1947); Donald G. Trayser et alii, Eastham, Massachusetts, 1651-1951 (Lexington, 1951).

EASTHAM, Central Precinct (see Eastham, First or North).

EASTHAM, First (see Orleans).

EASTHAM, North Church and Precinct (see Eastham, First or North).

EASTHAM, North Precinct/Parish and Church (see Wellfleet).

EASTHAM, South Church and Parish (see Orleans).



EASTHAM, Third Parish (see Wellfleet).

EASTHAMPTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 17, 1785, and its parish was organized in 1835. A daughter church (Payson Church) created in 1852 rejoined the parent body in 1918, at which time church and parish were incorporated as a single entity.

Minister: Payson Williston (ord. 1789; disp. 1833;  
d. 1856)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Stephen Wright (e. 1786; cta. 1807; d. 1809)  
Benjamin Lyman (e. 1786; d. 1798)  
Obadiah Janes (e. 1788; cta. 1807; d. 1817)  
Joel Parsons (e. 1798; cta. 1813; d. 1818)

There are no records antedating 1853; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1785-1853.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "Record." 1853-1918.

PR I - "Parish Book. No. 1. Easthampton." 1835-1851.

PR II - "Records. 1st Parish, Easthampton." 1850-1889.

PR III - Parish Records, 1889-1918.

Miscellaneous records: Payson Society Records, 1851-1888.

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1. See Payson W. Lyman, The Historical Address delivered by Rev. Payson W. Lyman on the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the First Church, Easthampton, Mass., November 17, 1885 (Easthampton, 1887). Lyman reported that the church records through 1834 were comprised almost entirely of vital statistics; these records have since disappeared.

EAST HAVERHILL (see Haverhill, East).

EAST HAWLEY (see Hawley, First, Charlemont).

EAST MEDWAY, Church and Parish (see Millis).

EASTON, First Congregational Parish (U), inactive.

The church was gathered sometime during the years 1722-1723,<sup>1</sup> as the Church in the East Precinct of Norton. The precinct boundaries had been established in 1718, but legal incorporation was delayed until 1722. Three years later, the precinct became the town of Easton. Dissention over the location of the meetinghouse came to a head in 1750. The town voted to raze the old building, and did so, erecting a new house of worship on a site the minister, New Light Solomon Prentice, and two-thirds of the church members deemed inconvenient. Prentice and his supporters therefore voted to meet in private homes until suitable accommodations could be obtained. Relationships between the two factions deteriorated to the point where, in 1751, the Prentice party suspended from

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1. Authorities give a variety of dates for the gathering of the church, ranging from 1713 to 1723; the earlier dates are based on the organization of a legally unrecognized "East Society of the [Taunton] North-Purchase," which in 1713 hired Ruling Elder William Pratt to preach to them. It is extremely doubtful that any church was covenanted before 1722.



membership all who had forwarded the town's action on the old and new meetinghouses. The extraordinary reaction of the suspended church members was to declare themselves the church, and vote Prentice's dismissal from the ministry, an act with which the town now voted its concurrence. The dismissal was voided, however, by the fact that the "church" so voting consisted entirely of persons suspended from the membership of Prentice's church, and the concurrence of the town could only be interpreted as being of no effect.

The Prentice party might have made good its case, had it not decided in 1752 to declare for Presbyterianism. Transferring its activities to a new building erected on Prentice's land, it proceeded to elect ruling elders. Shortly thereafter, it invited the Presbytery to meet at Easton to deal with Prentice's drift into Baptist principles, in consequence of which the New Light minister was suspended. He moved to Grafton in 1755, and died in 1773. The Presbyterian church in Easton became extinct by 1762.

The movement of Prentice's church into Presbyterianism cleared the way for the remnants of the original church to reorganize and a minister was duly settled upon Prentice's suspension and removal. The parish was incorporated in 1792, and again in 1810.

In 1832, doctrinal differences found the parish showing Unitarian sympathies, while the church declared itself orthodox. In 1839, an orthodox society was organized to support the church, which by now had withdrawn from the parish. The parish and liberal remnant still continue, although listed by the denomination as inactive.

Ministers:	Matthew Short	(inst. 1723; d. 1731)
	Joseph Belcher	(ord. 1731; dism. 1744; d. 1773)
	Solomon Prentice	(inst. 1747, not legally dism. by the town until 1755, rem.; d. 1773)
	George Farrar	(ord. 1755; d. 1756)
	Archibald Campbell	(ord. 1763; dism. 1782; d. 1818)
	William Reed	(ord. 1784; d. 1809)

Ruling elders: there is presumptive evidence that the church employed or contemplated employing ruling elders, since one of the persons suspended by Prentice's party in 1751 was "Deacon and Ruling Elder Elect" Edward Hayward. It seems probable that once the Prentice party declared for Presbyterianism, the "town church" dropped the office



from its structure. (The Presbyterian church elected six ruling elders between 1752 and 1754.)

Deacons:	Joseph Snow	(m. 1732)
	Edward Hayward	(m. 1747-1751 as "Ruleing Elder Elect")
	Ephraim Randall	(m. 1747)
	Robert Randall	(m. 1750; joined Prentice party who e. him ruling elder 1752; m. 1763)
	James Dean	(m. 1758-1763)
	William Pratt, Jr.	(e. 1774)
	Daniel Littlefield	(e. 1774)
	----- Phillips	(m. 1783)
	Matthew Hayward	(e. 1784; rem. <u>ca.</u> 1790)
	Joseph Drake	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1790)
	Abijah Reed	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1790)

When Prentice was installed in 1747, he found no church records of the previous pastorates. Records for the years 1747-1754 and 1762-1886 were extant when Chaffin wrote his History, but have since dropped from sight, the records of the inactive church dating from 1904. The orthodox church which withdrew in 1832-1839 has no records older than those dates. The extant parish records are owned and held by the clerk of the inactive Unitarian church.

PR I - "This Book Bought September y<sup>e</sup> 11th 1792. By Elijah Howard first Parish Clerk in Easton for Parish Records in Said Easton." 1792-1904.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, the number of books indicated in parentheses after the appropriate year: 1794 (3), 1795 (2), 1797 (4), 1798 (4), 1799 (2), 1800 (4), 1801 (3), 1802 (4), 1803 (4), 1811 (3), 1812 (4), 1813 (4), 1818 (3), 1819 (4), 1823 (1); Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1792-1905.

See also Samuel H. Emery, The Ministry of Taunton, with Incidental Notices of Other Professions (Boston, 1853), 2 vols.; William L. Chaffin, History of the Town of Easton, Massachusetts (Cambridge, 1886).



EASTON, Presbyterian Church (see Easton, First Parish).

EAST ORLEANS, Church (see Orleans).

EAST SUDBURY, First Church (see Wayland).

EDGARTOWN, First Parish (U), extinct.  
Federated Church (C).

The church was gathered in 1641-1642, probably the latter year; the society was organized in 1820. During the nineteenth century doctrinal controversies, the parish declared for Unitarianism, and the orthodox (constituting a majority of the church) withdrew. The Unitarian body soon became extinct, leaving the orthodox (now the Federated Church) the only surviving heir of the 1642 church.

Ministers:	Thomas Mayhew, Jr.	(ord.? 1642; d. 1657)
	Peter Folger	(assistant to Mayhew in Indian missions; called "pastor," "elder"; became Baptist; rem. to Nantucket; d. 1690)
	Gov. Thomas Mayhew	(unord. but called "teacher," sett. here and carried on Indian missions 1658; d. 1681)

John Cotton, Jr.	(invited 1664, possibly not legally sett., but ministered here and carried on Indian missions 1665; rem. 1667; d. 1699)
John Tackanash	(Indian preacher, assistant to Gov. Mayhew after Cotton's rem.; d. 1684)
Deodat Lawson	(sett. 1681; d. post-1698)
Jonathan Dunham	(ord. 1694 [as teacher?]; d. 1717)
Samuel Wiswall	(ord. 1713; d. 1746)
John Newman	(ord. 1747; disp. 1758; d. 1763)
Joshua Tufts	(sett. 1759; rem. 1760; d. 1766)
Samuel Kingsbury	(ord. 1761; d. 1778)
Joseph Thaxter	(ord. 1780; d. 1827)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: fragmentary, due to lack of early records.

Matthew Norton	(m. 1747; d. <u>ca.</u> 1778)
Benjamin Daggett	(m. 1747) <sup>1</sup>
John Worth, Esq.	(e. 1781; d. 1802)
William Mayhew	(e. 1789; d. 1840)
Jonathan Worth	(e. 1802; d. 1817)

A memorandum in CR II, p. 1, penned ca. 1840, states that the records of the church's first century had been lost or destroyed some years previous. The extant records are the property of the Federated Church, and are deposited with the Registrar of Probate, Duke's County Court House, Edgartown.<sup>2</sup>

CR I - "Records of the Church of Christ, 1717-1839. Edgartown, Mass." Scattered church votes, 1717-1780; church records, 1780-1839.

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1. One authority reports Daggett's death in 1780, at the age of 90 (VS I); another reports him removing to Maine in 1790, and dying there in 1791 (Hall). It is entirely possible that two deacons by the name of Benjamin Daggett served the church.

2. Frederick L. Weis et alii, "Early Records of the Seventeenth Century Churches in Massachusetts Which Became Unitarian," UHSP, VII, ii (1941), 15, reports a transcript of the existing records owned and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society; that organization, however, claims no knowledge of any such item.



CR I ABSTRACT - Mittie B. Fairbanks, "Edgartown, Mass., Church Record," NEHGR, LX (1906), 159-160. Largely drawn from the 1780 memorandum composed by Thaxter.

VS I & II - Harriet M. Pease, "Copy of a Record of Deaths Kept by the Rev. Samuel Kingsbury, Minister of the Gospel at Edgartown, Mass.," NEHGR, LII (1898), 230-233, 368-371, LIII (1899), 102-108; and "Deaths at Edgartown, Mass.," op. cit., LIX (1905), 202-208, 297-308, 400-411.

CR II - Church Records, 1839-1917.

SR I - "Records, Congregational Society, 1820-1837. Book I. Edgartown, Mass."

See John G. Hall, An Historical Discourse, Delivered in the Congregational Meeting-House, at Edgartown, Mass., November 6, 1878 (Boston, 1878); Charles E. Banks, The History of Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts, in Three Volumes (Boston, 1911; Edgartown, 1925).

EDGARTOWN, Chappaquiddick Indian Church (C), extinct.

While one authority<sup>1</sup> denominates this "the earliest Indian church in Massachusetts," dating it 1659, this seems unlikely. The church gathered in 1659 was probably the one located at Sanchacantacket, northwest of Edgartown, now lying in the township of Oak Bluffs. In 1670, the Rev. Messrs. John Eliot, John Cotton, Jr., and Gov. Thomas Mayhew assisted the 1659 church in electing officers: Hiacoomes (pastor), John Tackanash (teacher), John Nohnoso and Joshua Momatchegin (ruling elders), and Kestumin (deacon). In 1675, the church divided into two independent bodies,

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1. Frederick L. Weis, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," CSMP, XXXVIII (1947-1951), 162. In the light of contemporary reports, e.g., letters of John Cotton, Jr. and Thomas Mayhew, Sr. written ca. 1674 (MHSC, 1st Ser., I 11792, rep. 1806], Ch. ix, it would appear that Weis was mistaken.



to relieve the Indians on Chappaquiddick Island of the dangerous channel crossing. The officers were divided between the churches, Hiacoomes and Joshua Momatchegin being assigned to Chappaquiddick.

In 1683, Hiacoomes being much enfeebled, the churches were briefly reunited, but after his death in 1690, the Chappaquiddick church was reactivated, Joshua Momatchegin, Jonathan Amos and (probably) John (Hia)coomes serving it until 1706, when English missionaries took up its leadership.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	Gov. Thomas Mayhew, Sr.	(Vineyard governor; sett. Edgartown 1658, ministered to seven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1681)
	John Mayhew	(sett. West Tisbury 1673, ministered to six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1688/89)
	Hiacoomes	(Indian preacher, converted by Thomas Mayhew, Jr. 1643; ord. pastor Oak Bluffs, Sanchacantacket Indian Church 1670; sett. pastor Chappaquiddick Indian Church 1675; d. 1690)
	Joshua Momatchegin	(Indian preacher; ord. ruling elder Oak Bluffs, Sanchacantacket Indian Church 1670; sett. ruling elder Chappaquiddick Indian Church 1675; sett. ruling elder at Sanchacantacket <u>ca.</u> 1683; sett. pastor at Chappaquiddick 1690; d. 1703)
	John (Hia)coomes	(son of Hiacoomes, may have briefly assisted Momatchegin at Chappaquiddick; rem. to Lakeville; d. <u>ca.</u> 1718)



Experience Mayhew	(sett. Indian missionary 1694, ministered to nine Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1758)
Jonathan Amos	(Indian preacher; e. deacon Chappaquiddick 1698; e. pastor 1703; d. 1706. Also active at Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket] and Gay Head Indian Congregational Church)
Samuel Wiswall	(ord. Edgartown First 1713, some missionary work; d. 1746)
Zachariah Mayhew	(ord. Chilmark 1767, ministered to six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1806)
Frederick Baylies	(missionary, also active at West Tisbury, Christiantown Indian Church; d. 1836)

Ruling elder: Joshua Momatchegin (see above).

Deacon: Jonathan Amos (see above).

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

EGREMONT (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 20, 1770; it was dissolved in 1814.

Minister: Eliphalet Steele (ord. 1770; dism. 1794; d. 1817)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Ephraim Fitch (e. 1771; res. 1775)  
 Timothy Kellogg (e. 1771)  
 Ebenezer Olas (e. 1776)

The records are owned and held by the South Egremont Congregational Church (gathered in 1816, and usually considered the successor of the 1770 church).

CR I - "Church Records for the Church of Egremont."  
(Flyleaf: "Egremont June 28, 1770. A Record of Persons baptized by Eliphalet Steele Pastor of the Church of Christ in Said Egremont.") 1770-1795, largely vital statistics.

CR I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Egremont, Mass., Records of Congregational Church." Copy made in 1902 of CR I and Records of the South Egremont Church, 1816-1881; owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

ELBOW(S) TRACT OR SETTLEMENT (see Palmer).

ENFIELD (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Dec. 2, 1789 as the Church in the South Parish of Greenwich (itself incorporated in 1787). The area became the town of Enfield in 1830, and the title of church and parish were accordingly changed. The church became extinct when the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir in 1936 destroyed Enfield and the neighboring towns.

Minister: Joshua Crosby (inst. 1789; d. 1838)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: the extant records begin in 1828 and close in 1836, but this has not prevented considerable speculation about the identity of the church's lay officers. Donald W. Howe et alii, Quabbin: The Lost Valley (Ware, Mass., 1951), p. 118, report that Rich and Stone were the deacons at the time of the church's being gathered; however, the



latter may well have been Simon Stone, a Greenwich deacon.<sup>1</sup> Rich is identified as Deacon Ebenezer Rich, d. 1811, in History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers (Philadelphia, 1879), I, 382. The Deacon John Reynolds of Enfield who attended a Southfield council in the 1780's (SOUTHFIELD CR I, p. 83) cannot be identified. The church manual published under the title Incorporated February 15, 1906. By-Laws, Creed and Covenant, Historical Sketch and Form of Service for Reception of Members of The Congregational Church, Enfield, Mass. (Belchertown, Mass., 1927) makes a definite claim that Aaron Woods and Darius Sabin were elected deacons shortly after the church's formation.

The extant records are owned and held by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

CR I - Church Records, 1828-1836.

PR I - "Greenwich, Mass. Church. 1799-1816." Mistitled; actually records of the South Parish (Enfield).

PR II - Parish Records, 1887-1906.

Miscellaneous records: the volume entitled "Church Records" actually contains transcripts of chattel mortgages, and records of the Justice of the Peace, and of the Selectmen of the town.

ESSEX, First (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 12, 1683 as the Second Church in Ipswich. The Second Parish in Ipswich had been organized in 1679, and was finally incorporated in 1776. An early (and frequently-used) name for the church and parish alike was Chebacco.

A New Light separation occurred in 1746, the seceders gathering Ipswich's Fourth Church and Parish (Essex Second), but in 1774 the two churches merged as one.

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1. It is worth remarking that Howe casually records another tradition, hardly credible, that the church elected no deacons until 1828.



The name Essex was apparently applied to the area for quite some time before it became a town in 1819.

Ministers:	John Wise	(ord. 1683; d. 1725)
	Theophilus Pickering	(ord. 1727; d. 1747)
	Nehemiah Porter	(ord. 1749; dism. 1766; d. 1820)
	John Cleaveland	(ord. Ipswich Fourth 1747; pastor of merged churches from 1774; d. 1799)
	Josiah Webster	(ord. 1799; dism. 1806)

Ruling elders: despite Wise's advocacy of ruling elders, the original church did not employ such officers prior to 1774. The seceding (Ipswich Fourth) church, however, did elect such elders, and the merged church of 1774 continued these men in office, and later added one more to the lay eldership.

Francis Choate	(e. Ipswich Fourth 1747; con- tinued at merged church; d. 1777)
Eleazar Craft	(e. Ipswich Fourth 1771; con- tinued at merged church; d. 1790)
Deacon Seth Story	(e. after Choate's death; d. 1786)

Deacons:	John Burnham	(e. ca. 1683; d. 1694)
	Thomas Low	(e. 1683; d. 1712)
	William Goodhue	(e. 1683-1694; d. 1712)
	Seth Story	(e. 1694; d. 1732)
	John Choate	(e. 1712; d. 1733)
	John Andrews	(e. 1732 ?; d. 1750)
	John Burnham	(e. 1732; d. 1746)
	Seth Story	(e. 1746; elev. to ruling elder ca. 1777; d. 1786)
	Zechariah Story	(e. 1746; d. 1774)
	Solomon Gidding	(e. Ipswich Fourth 1747; con- tinued at merged church; d. 1788)
	Stephen Choate	(e. Ipswich Fourth 1747; con- tinued at merged church; d. 1815)
	Thomas Burnham	(e. Ipswich Fourth 1747; con- tinued at merged church; d. 1799)
	Jonathan Cogswell	(e. ca. 1788; d. 1812)



The records are owned by the church, and deposited at Essex Institute, Salem. The nature of the surviving volumes makes them difficult to categorize, and the inventory is further complicated by the intertwining of the records of Ipswich Second and Fourth churches.

C MISC I - "Ministerial Record." Vital statistics, and notes of a few excommunications, 1680-1850.

C MISC II - "Ministerial Record." 1774-1855.

CR I - "Chebacco Second Book." Church records, 1721/25-1766; some parish records copied in.

CR II - Church Records for Ipswich Second, 1725-1746; for Ipswich Fourth, 1746-1774; for merged church, 1774-1799.

VS I - "Ipswich Church Records," EIHC, LVIII (1922), 23-24. Admissions and dismissions, 1732-1798.

PR I - Parish Records, 1683-1726.

PR I COPY - Copy of PR I, with some items back to 1676.

PR II - Parish Records, 1807-1824, with Parish Assessors' Rates from 1776.

PR III - Parish Records, 1818-1852, prefaced by records of Ipswich Sixth Parish (Fourth Church), 1752-1775.

PR III - Parish Records, 1853-1896.

ESSEX, Second (Ipswich Fourth) (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on May 22, 1746 by persons seceding from Essex's First Church (Ipswich Second). Its parish (Ipswich Sixth) was organized in 1752. In 1774, both church and parish merged with the parent organizations.

Minister: John Cleaveland (ord. 1747; pastor of merged church from 1774; d. 1799)

Ruling elders: Francis Choate (e. 1747; continued at merged church; d. 1777)  
 Daniel Gidding (e. 1747; d. 1771)  
 Eleazar Craft (e. 1747; continued at merged church; d. 1790)

Deacons: Solomon Gidding (e. 1747; continued at merged church; d. 1788)  
 Stephen Choate (e. 1747; continued at merged church; d. 1815)  
 Thomas Burnham (e. 1747; continued at merged church; d. 1799)

The records are part of the Essex First Church collection, owned by that church, and deposited at Essex Institute, Salem.

CR I - Church Records, 1746-1774. Contained in ESSEX FIRST, CR II.

PR I - Parish Records, 1752-1775. Contained in ESSEX FIRST, PR III.

See C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 98-100, 206, 315.

EVERETT (see Malden, South Church).

FAIRHAVEN, First (C).

The church was gathered on July 23, 1794 as the Second Church in New Bedford. With the incorporation of the town of Fairhaven in 1812, the church became the First, and in 1845 the First Congregational Society was incorporated. The church itself was incorporated on Aug. 22, 1895.



Minister: Isaiah Weston (ord. 1795; dism. 1808)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: none elected until 1809.

Only one book of records for the years antedating the church's incorporation is extant; it is owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the second Church of Christ, in New Bedford." 1794-1823, with admissions to 1837.

FALL RIVER (see Freetown).

FALLTOWN, Church (see Bernardston).

FALMOUTH, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 10, 1708, although religious services under the leadership<sup>1</sup> of Samuel Shiverick had been held locally since ca. 1700.

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1. Shiverick, a Huguenot, was active in Falmouth before 1700; he was disowned as the minister by the town in 1701, and in 1702 was voted relief by the town. in 1702 he was further dismissed by the town, and in 1705 again granted relief. Town records of 1708 mention him as "our ancient minister."

Ministers: Joseph Metcalf (sett. 1707; d. 1723)  
 Josiah Marshall (ord. 1724; cta. 1730;  
 d. 1772)  
 Samuel Palmer (ord. 1731; d. 1775)  
 Zebulon Butler (ord. 1775; dism. 1778;  
 d. 1791)  
 Isaiah Mann (ord. 1780; d. 1789)  
 Henry Lincoln (ord. 1790; dism. 1823;  
 d. 1857)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: (Joseph ?) Parker (m. 1731; d. ca. 1734)  
 Moses Hatch (m. 1734; res. 1745)  
 Aaron Rowlee (e. 1734; res. 1741)  
 Joseph Crowell (e. 1741; res. 1751)  
 Thomas Parker (e. 1745; m. 1771)  
 Benjamin Parker (e. 1751; m. 1760)  
 Joseph Davis (e. 1771; m. 1810)<sup>1</sup>  
 Solomon Price (e. 1772; d. 1794)  
 Job Parker (e. 1786; d. 1812)  
 Benjamin Hatch (e. 1804; m. 1820; rem.)

The records antedating 1731 have long been lost; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited in a local bank.

CR I - "Church Records 1731 to 1790." (Flyleaf: "Falmouth - Church - Records Continued from November y<sup>e</sup> 24th 1731. On Which Day Samuel Palmer was Separated to the Work of the Ministry and ordained the Pastor of that Church . . . .") 1731-1790.

CR II - "The Church-Records of Falmouth. From Feb<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1790. By Henry Lincoln Pastor." 1790-1833.

VS I - "Book of Marriages and Deaths in The first Congregational Chh & Parish since my residence in Falm<sup>8</sup> from Feb<sup>y</sup> 1824. Benj<sup>n</sup> Woodbury Pastor of the 1st Chh in Falmouth." Marriages, 1824-1885; deaths, 1824-1885.

CR III - "Church Records." 1833-1890.

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1. According to Articles of Faith, and the Covenant, of the First Congregational Church, Falmouth, Mass. (Boston, 1851), Timothy Crocker was "ordained" a deacon in 1772, but the church records do not substantiate this claim.



CR IV - "First Cong'l Church, Falmouth Vol. 4." 1890-1917.

SR I - "Records of the First Congregational Society of Falmouth." 1852-1902.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1834-1899; Society Committee Records, 1824-1861.

FEDERAL STREET Church (see Boston, Arlington Street Church).

FEEDING HILLS (see Agawam).

FITCHBURG, First Parish (U/U).  
Calvinistic Congregational (C).

The church was gathered on January 7, 1768. In 1802, the orthodox party in the church withdrew from the First Parish, incorporating the Calvinistick Congregational Society in 1805; in 1804 this body settled Titus T. Barton as its minister. Barton was dismissed in 1814, the act of incorporation was repealed the following year, but the Society did not disband.

The church of the First Parish, meanwhile, ordained William Bascom as its minister in 1804, from which post he was dismissed in 1813.

In 1813, after due negotiation, the two churches reunited, and installed a Calvinist, William Eaton, as minister in 1815; he was dismissed in 1823.

In 1823, the church voted to withdraw from the First Parish, and attached itself to the dormant Calvinistick Congregational Society. By court decision all extant parish records antedating 1823 were returned to the First Parish, and thereafter the two churches pursued their separate ways. During the 1940's, the First Universalist Church merged its identity with the First Parish; the name of the 1768 church and parish has been retained.

Ministers: John Payson (ord. 1768; disp. 1794;  
d. 1804)  
Samuel Worcester (ord. 1797; disp. 1802;  
d. 1821)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Deacon Amos Kimball (e. 1768; d. 1774)<sup>1</sup>  
John Thurston (e. 1768; d. 1770-1780)  
Edward Hartwell, Esq. (d. after 1768)  
Timothy Bancroft (d. 1775)  
David Goodrich (m. 1747; d. 1786)  
John Buss, Jr. (e. after 1776; rem.  
1780-1781)  
Ephraim Kimball, Jr. (e. ca. 1780; separated  
with the orthodox body  
1802; d. 1825)  
Daniel Putnam (m. 1787; separated with  
the orthodox body 1802;  
d. 1813)  
Kendall Boutelle (m. 1790; separated with  
the orthodox body 1802;  
d. 1819)

During the first separation, the church of the First Parish elected two deacons:

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1. Mention must be made of two Lunenburg deacons who signed the petition to have Fitchburg set off as a town, viz. Benjamin Foster and Samuel Putnam; however, both continued as members of the Lunenburg church.

Some note should be taken of Ephraim Kimball (d. 1782), cousin of Deacon Amos Kimball and co-settler of Fitchburg. Active in the life of the Fitchburg church, and sometimes designated as "Deacon Kimball," there is no evidence that he was actually elected to such a position. See Ebenezer Bailey, "Deacon Ephraim Kimball," FHSP, V (1914), 80-94.



Jacob Jaquith (e. 1803; re-e. 1805; m. 1812)  
 Joseph Tilden (e. 1805; m. 1812)

At the same time, the orthodox church continued in office Deacons Kimball, Jr., Putnam, and Boutelle, and since all these were well-advanced in years, saw fit to add several others, the following before 1806:

John Farwell (m. 1804; d. 1806)  
 Ebenezer Thurston (e. 1804-1805; m. 1812)  
 John Thurston, Jr. (e. 1805; m. 1810)  
 Ephraim Kimball, Jr. (re-e. 1806; d. 1825)

The records antedating 1803 disappeared at the time of the first separation. The later records are divided among the First Parish, the Calvinistic Congregational Church, and the Fitchburg Historical Society. The inventory indicates the phase of the church(es') development to which given books of records pertain.

A. Records of the First Parish (1803-1813):

CR I (FP) - "Records of the 'Congregational Church' of Fitchburg." 1803-1813. Owned and held by FP.

PR I (FP) - "Fitchburg, first Parish Book, and contains the records of said Parish." 1805-[1849]. Owned and held by FHS.

Miscellaneous records: ten Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1805-1814. Owned and held by FHS.

B. Records of the Calvinistic Congregational Church (1803-1813):

CR I (CC) - "Church Book of Records." 1803-1811. Owned by FP and held by FHS.

CR II (CC) - "Records of the congregational calvinistic Church in Fitchburg." 1810-1814. Owned by FP and held by FHS.

CR III (CC) - "This Book Contains the Records of the Donations Given to the Calvinistic Congregational Church in Fitchburg in 1805. Also, The records of 'the Church' in Fitchburg commencing with a meeting held Oct. 31, 1823." Memoranda, 1805-[1823]; church records, [1823-1832]. Owned and held by CC.



SR I (CC) - "Fitchburg, July AD 1805. This Book contains the Record, of the Calvinistick Congregational Society in Fitchburg." 1805-[1844]. Owned and held by CC.

C. Records of the merged church (1813-1823):

In addition to the items cited above as PR I (FP), CR III (CC) and SR I (CC):

CR II (FP) - Church Records, 1813-1868. Owned and held by FHS.

Miscellaneous records: nine Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1815-1823. Owned and held by FHS.

D. Records of the First Parish (1823-present):

In addition to the items cited above as CR I (FP), CR II (FP) and the nineteen Parish Assessors' Rate Books:

CR II (FP) COPY - "Records of the first Church in Fitchburg." Copy for 1824-1825. Owned and held by FHS.

CR III (FP) - "Records of First Church, Fitchburg, Mass." 1868-1900. Owned and held by FP.

PR II (FP) - "First Parish Records - Book 2." 1850-1878. Owned and held by FP.

PR III (FP) - "Records of First Parish, Fitchburg, Mass." 1879-1908. Owned and held by FP.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books (FP), 1824, 1825, 1827, 1828, owned and held by FHS; Parish Treasurer's Accounts (FP), 1814-1850 (owned and held by FP), 1854-1870 (owned and held by FHS); Pew Deeds (FP), 1837-1852, 1851-1875, 1896-1909, owned and held by FP; Parish Registers (FP), 1843-1883, 1883-1959, owned and held by FP.

The First Parish also owns and holds the records of the First Universalist Church of 1858, with which it merged during the 1940's.

Since the Calvinistic Congregational Church of 1823 lies outside the scope of this inventory, it needs only to be remarked that its records from that date to the present are complete.



See Rufus C. Torrey, History of the Town of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Comprising Also a History of Lunenburg, From Its First Settlement to the Year 1764 (Fitchburg, 1836; rep. 1865); George A. Hitchcock, A History of the Calvinistic Congregational Church and Society, Fitchburg, Massachusetts (Fitchburg, 1902); and the five volumes of Proceedings of the Fitchburg Historical Society, published at Fitchburg between 1895 and 1914.

FORTY-MILE RIVER, Indian Church (see Grafton, Hassanamesit Indian Praying Town and Church).

FOXBORO, Bethany Church (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 25, 1779. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1824. A society was organized in 1853, and in 1855, church and society took the names Orthodox Congregational Church and Society. At the recent incorporation of the church, the name Bethany Congregational Church was adopted.

Ministers: Thomas Kendall (ord. 1786; dism. 1800)  
Daniel Loring (ord. 1804; dism. 1806)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Nehemiah Carpenter (e. 1786; d. 1799)  
Nathaniel Clark (e. 1786; d. 1823)  
Spencer Hodges (e. 1799; d. 1809)  
Samuel Baker (e. 1805; d. 1821)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Foxboro Church Records. Vol. I." 1779-1799.

CR II - "Foxborough Church Records, from February 5th, 1800 Foxboro' Vol. III." 1800-1840.

CR III - "Vol. IV." 1821-1855.

CR IV - "Orthodox Congregational Church Foxborough Mass. Vol. 5." 1855-1878.

CR V - "Volume 6. Records of Orthodox Congregational Church Foxborough, Mass. Beginning May 23d. 1878." 1878-1910.

VS I - "Church Records Vol. 5." Admissions, 1794-1860.

VS II - "A Catalogue of the Pastors Deacons and Members of the Congregational Church in Foxboro from Its Organization." 1786-1915.

VS III - "Horace Carpenter Clerk of 'Bethany' Orthodox Congregational Church. Foxborough, Mass." Vital statistics, 1886-1915.

SR I - Society Records, 1853-1897.

Miscellaneous society records: Assessors' Rate Books, 1885-1890, 1885-1897, 1885-1899; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1856-1915; Pew Deeds, 1858-1903.

FRAMINGHAM, First Parish (U).  
Plymouth Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 8, 1701, the First Parish being organized in 1826, shortly before the withdrawal of the orthodox majority of the church.<sup>1</sup>

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1. The orthodox body, originally the Hollis Evangelical Church, more recently named the Plymouth Congregational Church, also claims the 1701 date.



Ministers: John Swift (ord. 1701; d. 1745)  
 Matthew Bridge (ord. 1745/46; d. 1775)  
 David Kellogg, D.D. (ord. 1781; led the ortho-  
 dox withdrawal 1830;  
 d. 1843)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: David Rice (e. 1701; d. 1720)  
 Joshua Hemenway (e. 1701; m. 1722)  
 ----- Harrington (m. 1705)  
 Daniel Stone (m. 1710)  
 Moses Haven (e. 1717; m. 1728)  
 ----- Bridges (m. 1719)  
 Ens. John Adams (e. 1726; m. 1746)  
 Moses Pike (e. 1743; d. 1755)  
 Peter Balch (m. 1746)  
 Jonathan Morse (e. 1751; res. 1782)  
 Moses Learned (m. 1759)  
 Daniel Stone (e. 1763; res. 1782)  
 ----- Haven (m. 1760-1780)  
 William Brown (e. 1771; m. 1775)  
 Gideon Haven (e. 1782)  
 Capt. Thomas Buckminster (e. 1794)  
 Matthias Bent, Jr. (e. 1794; res. 1816)

There are no records antedating 1717; the extant records are owned and held by the First Parish.

CR I - Church Records, 1717-1830.

CR I COPY - "First Parish Church of Framingham, Church Records, 1717-1830." Two WPA typescript copies made 1937-1938; one owned and held by the church, the other by the local public library.

CR II - Church Records, 1830-1854, 1863, and 1867-1872.

PR I - Parish Records, 1826-1847.

PR II - Parish Records, 1848-1873.

PR II COPY - "First Parish Church of Framingham, Church Records, 1848-1873. WPA typescript copy made 1937-1938."<sup>1</sup>

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1. Incorrectly cited as church records by Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 345.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1852-1892.

FRAMINGHAM, Separate (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in October of 1746, and was sometimes called the Second Church in Framingham; by 1757, it had become extinct.

Minister: Solomon Reed (ord. 1746/47; rem. 1756; d. 1785)

Ruling elders and deacons: there being no extant records, nothing is known of the lay officers of this church.

See C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 313.

FRAMINGHAM CENTER (see Framingham).

FRANKLIN, Federated (C).

The church was gathered on Feb. 16, 1738 as the Second Church in Wrentham, the Second Precinct having been incorporated in 1737. Church and parish became the First in Franklin, upon the organization of the town in 1778. In 1914, the church was incorporated, and in 1941, it federated with a local Baptist church.



Ministers: Elias Haven (ord. 1738; d. 1754)  
 Caleb Barnum (ord. 1760; dism. 1768;  
 d. 1776)  
 Nathaniel Emmons, D.D. (ord. 1773; res. 1827;  
 d. 1840)

Ruling elders: Michael Metcalf (e. 1739; ord. 1742;  
 m. 1752)  
 Jonathan Wright (e. 1739; ord. 1742;  
 cta. ca. 1750)

Deacons: Daniel Kingsbury (e. 1739; ord. 1742;  
 m. 1750)  
 John Whiting (e. 1739; ord. 1742;  
 m. 1751)  
 Daniel Thurston (e. 1754; d. 1785)  
 Jabez Fisher (e. 1755; d. 1806)  
 Joseph Whiting, Jr. (e. 1779; d. 1826)  
 James Metcalf (e. 1785; d. 1803)  
 Peter Whiting (e. 1803; d. 1805)

The records are owned by the church; some are held by the church, others deposited at a local bank.

CR I - "The Records of the Second Church in Wrentham begun on the 16th day of February Anno Domini 1737/8." 1738-1781. At the bank.

CR II - "The 2d Volume of the Records of the Church in Franklin. Begun A.D. 1781." 1781-1887. At the bank.

CR III - "Records First Congregational Church, Franklin, Mass." 1887-1954. At the church.

VS MAR I - "A Record of Marriages In the 2d. Precinct of Wrentham Beginning 21. April 1773." 1773-1799. At the bank.

VS MAR II - "A Record of Marriages in Franklin, beginning January 1. A.D. 1801." 1801-1827. At the bank.

VS MORT - "A Bill of Mortality In the Second Precinct of Wrentham Beginning at 21 day of April. 1773." 1773-1827. At the bank.

VS REG - Church Register, 1868-1914. At the church.

PR I - "Records." 1894-1913. At the church.



PR II - "Records." 1894-1913. At the church.

Miscellaneous records (at the church): Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1889-1915; Records of Church Committee, 1877-1914; Charitable Accounts, 1853-1914; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1888-1893, 1893-1904; Records of Parish Committee, 1852-1889.

FREETOWN (C), extinct and reactivated.

The church was gathered on Sept. 30, 1747, and became virtually extinct by 1775.<sup>1</sup> On Feb. 4, 1827, the church

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1. There is no evidence that the church was actually dissolved, as reported by Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Documents of Parishes, Towns, and Counties" (Public Document No. 52), Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897 (Boston, 1898), II, 165.

Freetown (which originally included what is now Fall River) had no regular religious services until 1704, when William Way took up duties there as (unordained) preacher and schoolmaster. After that, occasional preaching was supplied successively by Rev. Samuel Danforth of Taunton, and ca. 1710-1711 by the later minister of Norton, Joseph Avery. A Freetown selectman, Jonathan Dodson, was elected minister in 1713, but apparently was never settled (see Orin Fowler, History of Fall River, with Notices of Freetown and Tiverton [Fall River, 1841; rep. 1862]). Thomas Craighead, an ordained Presbyterian clergyman, ministered here from 1717 to 1741, but was never formally installed.

Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 250, erroneously supposes there was a church at Freetown from 1704, and another at Fall River from 1776, and lists Silas Brett of Freetown as minister of both from 1747 to 1776; however, the Fall River church was gathered in 1816. Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 353, similarly lists two churches, and reports all records to be missing. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 94, depending wholly on secondary sources, makes the 1747 Freetown church a Separate body, and claims it became Baptist in 1775, removing in 1781 to Fall River and joining the First Baptist Church there.



was (in the words of the records) "reorganized" by six members of the old church, four persons transferring from other churches, and five persons making professions of faith. It took the name of the Freetown Congregational Church of Christ, and so continues today.

Minister: Silas Brett (ord. 1747; res. 1776; d. 1791)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacon: Samuel Read (e. 1748; d. 1791)

The records are owned by the Freetown Congregational Church, and deposited at the Fall River Historical Society.

CR I - "Church Records, 1747-1776." (Flyleaf: "The Records of The Congregational Church of Christ Which was Gathered in Freetown September 30th Annoq. Domini. 1747.") 1747-1776.

CR II - "Church Records, 1827-1934." (Flyleaf: "The Records of The Congregational Church of Christ in Freetown Reorganized Lord's day Feb. 4th A.D. 1827.")

See also The Bristol County History and Directory for 1875-6 (Boston, 1876), and Arthur S. Phillips, The Phillips History of Fall River (Fall River, 1944-1946), 3 vols.

GAGEBOROUGH (see Windsor).

GARDNER, First (C).

The church was gathered on Feb. 1, 1786, the First Parish having been organized the preceding year. A secession in 1830 saw the formation of an Evangelical Church, which reunited with the parent body in 1867. The church was incorporated in 1922.



Minister: Jonathan Osgood (ord. 1791; d. 1822)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the absence of early records, the identity of the lay officers is not known. It is unlikely that the church ever employed ruling elders.

There are no records antedating 1867; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited in a local bank.

CR I - "Records of the First Congregational Church, Gardner, Mass. Since the Union, May 14, 1867." Church records, 1867-1896; vital statistics to present.

CR II - "Records of the First Congregational Church - Church Committee's Report - Clerk's Report - Church Meetings - Book 2 - 1897 to Incorporation of Church 1922." 1896-1922.

GAY HEAD, Indian Church (C), extinct.

It seems doubtful that this church was gathered (as some authorities claim) in 1663-1666, the time of the conversion of Sachem Metaark to Christianity. One source records members in full communion being admitted and dismissed by 1674, which would argue full organization by that year. However, the Cotton and Mayhew reports of 1674-1675 are vague regarding the Gay Head church. By 1698, it enjoyed an active native ministry, and had seen the completion of the meetinghouse (still standing in 1786).

The last baptism in the church took place in 1784; by 1792, the membership had been reduced to twenty-five persons, all of whom soon after either<sup>1</sup> died or were absorbed by Gay Head's Indian Baptist Church.

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1. The Gay Head Indian Baptist Church was gathered ca. 1694. Having resisted the attempts of Judge Samuel Sewall to convert the members to Congregationalism in 1702, this church is the only Vineyard Indian Church surviving today. See "Diary of Samuel Sewall," MHSC, 5th Ser., VII (1882), 397.



See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	Gov. Thomas Mayhew, Sr.	(Vineyard governor; sett. Edgartown 1658; ministered to seven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1681)
	John Cotton, Jr.	(Indian mission on Vineyard 1664-1667; ord. Plymouth First 1669, also ministered to two dozen Indian praying towns and churches; rem. 1697; d. 1699)
	Sachem Metaark	(converted 1663-1666; Indian preacher; d. 1683)
	John Mayhew	(sett. West Tisbury 1673, ministered to six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1688/89)
	David Wuttnomanomin	(Indian deacon from 1683; preacher here and Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket]; d. 1698)
	Japeth (Pamc)hannit <sup>1</sup>	(Indian preacher; sett. 1683, also served Chilmark [Nashuakem-muck] and Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket]; d. 1712)
	Jonathan Amos	(Indian preacher; e. deacon 1698 Edgartown [Chappaquiddick], e. pastor 1703; d. 1706. Also active here and Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket]; d. 1712)
	Elisha Paaonut <sup>2</sup>	(Indian preacher, possibly successor to Metaark in 1683; d. 1714)

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1. Sometimes given as "Japeth Hannit, Jr."

2. Sometimes given as "Elisha Panoit."

Experience Mayhew	(sett. Indian missionary 1694, ministered to nine Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1758)
Josiah Torrey	(ord. West Tisbury 1704, associated with four Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1723)
Daniel Shohkow	(Indian preacher, ministering here from 1698 and to praying towns on the Elizabeth Islands from 1709; d. 1718)
Abel Wauwompukque	(Indian preacher from 1712; also active near Gay Head; d. 1722)
Joash Pannos <sup>1</sup>	(Indian preacher, ord. here 1716; also active at Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket]; d. 1720)
Peter Ohquanhut	(Indian preacher, <u>ca.</u> 1724-1725)
Nathaniel Hancock	(ord. West Tisbury 1727, associated with three Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1756; d. 1774)
Zachariah Mayhew	(ord. Chilmark 1767, associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1806)
Zachariah Osooit	(Indian preacher, <u>ca.</u> 1770)
David Capy	(Indian preacher, <u>ca.</u> 1770)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

#### GEORGETOWN, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 4, 1732 as the Second Church in Rowley, the Second or West Parish having been incorporated the preceding year. When Georgetown was

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1. Sometimes given as "Panuos" or "Panneu."



made a town in 1838, church and parish took the title of First Church and Parish.

A secession during the years 1754-1770 resulted in the formation of a New Light conventicle which eventually adopted Baptist principles. The divisive results are illustrated by the fact that it took eight years and the hearing of sixty-three candidates before church and parish could agree on a successor to the first minister.

Ministers: James Chandler (ord. 1732; d. 1789)  
Isaac Braman (ord. 1797; d. 1858)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	William Fiske	(e. 1732; d. 1765)
	William Searle	(e. 1732; d. 1778)
	Capt. Abner Spoffard <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1755; d. 1777)
	Capt. Richard Thurston	(e. 1761; res. 1781; d. 1782)
	Stephen Mighill	(e. 1768; res. 1781; d. 1783)
	Jeremiah Searle	(e. 1784; res. 1797; d. 1799)
	Col. Daniel Spaford	(e. 1784; res. 1801; d. 1803)
	Thomas Merrill	(e. 1797; res. 1811; d. 1820)
	Moody Spafford, Esq.	(e. 1801; res. 1811; d. 1828)

The records are church property and deposited at a local bank.

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CR I - "May 21. 1733. Price 15. This belongs to the Second Chh of Christ in Rowley. Donum Pastoris 1733." 1732-1855.

CR I COPY - Photostat copy of CR I.

CR II - "Congregational Church Georgetown Mass." (Flyleaf: "Record of the Congregational Church. Georgetown, Mass. Vol. 2nd.") 1849-1883.

CR I & II DUP - "Church Record of the Congregational Church Georgetown Mass Volume '2d' Pastor's Book." Minister's private copy of church records, 1842-1860.

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1. Sometimes given as "Spaford" or "Spafford."

CR III - "Record of the First Congregational Church. Georgetown, Mass. 1883. Vol. 3d." Church records, 1883-1911.

VS I - "Congregational Church Georgetown, Mass." Church register, 1843-1919.

PR I - "The West Parish or Precinct Book, in Rowley. October=5=1731." Parish records, 1731-1814.

PR I COPY - Photostat copy of PR I.

PR II - "Parish Records." 1815-1858.

PR III - MISSING, Parish Records, 1858-1870.

PR IV - "Records." 1870-1917.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1731-1871, 1825-1871; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1799-1866.

[GEORGETOWN, Separate (C/B), extinct.]

In 1754, New Light members of the First Church of Georgetown (then the Second Church of Rowley) withdrew from the parish church and, with additional recruits from the neighboring towns, inaugurated regular services of worship more to their theological taste. This New Light conventicle formally affiliated in 1781 with Haverhill's First Baptist Church, becoming a branch church until strong enough to become an independent Baptist church in 1784-1785. Since it is impossible to determine whether a church was gathered during the group's Separate Congregational phase, this entry is bracketed.

Minister: Eliphaz Chapman (sett. 1770; rem. 1772; d. 1814)



Ruling elders and deacons: in the absence of any records, nothing is known of officers who may have been appointed (if a church was gathered) during the years 1754-1781.

See Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County, Mass. (Boston, 1865), p. 245. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 250, prematurely identifies the separation of 1754 as "The First Baptist Church of Rowley."

GERRY, Church and Parish (see Phillipston).

GILL, Turners Falls (C).

The church was gathered on May 22, 1796, and the Gill Congregational Society organized in 1821.

Ministers: John Jackson (ord. 1798; dism. 1801; d. 1844)  
Jabez Munsell (ord. 1802; dism. 1805; d. 1832)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Shubel Hillman  
----- Bascom (d. 1805-1806)  
Reuben Shattuck (m. 1806)

The records are owned by the church and deposited at the local library.

CR I - "Records of the Church in Gill, Massachusetts." Memoranda, 1796-1805; records, 1806-1830.

CR II - "Church records Vol. II." (Flyleaf: "Records of the congregational church in Gill. Vol. II. Novr. 10. 1830.") 1830-1861.

CR III - "Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of Congregational Church of Gill Mass. Volume 3.") 1864-1905.

SR I - "The Records of the Congregational Society in Gill, March 12th AD, 1821." 1821-1849.

SR II - "Records of the Congregational Society of Gill. Vol. 2." 1849-1908.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1888-1903; Pew Deeds, 1849-1862.

GLASGO(W), Church (see Blandford).

GLOUCESTER, First Parish (U), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1642. The First Parish was incorporated in 1742, and the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund in 1826. Church and parish became extinct in recent years.

Ministers:	Richard Blinman	(sett. 1642; rem. 1648-1649; d. 1687)
	William Perkins	(sett. 1650, probably not ord.; e. schoolmaster 1651; held "teaching elder's marsh" rem. 1655 ?; d. 1682)
	John Emerson	(ord. 1663; d. 1700)
	John White	(ord. 1703; d. 1760)
	Samuel Chandler	(inst. 1751; d. 1775)
	Eli Forbes, D.D.	(inst. 1776; d. 1804)
	Perez Lincoln	(ord. 1805; d. 1811)

Ruling elders: due to the absence of early records, the names of the elders elected early in John White's ministry



are not known.<sup>1</sup> It appears likely that the church employed such officers throughout most of the eighteenth century.

Deacon John Parsons (e. 1756)  
Deacon Philemon Warner (e. 1756; m. 1772)

Deacons: until 1703, there are no deacons' names recorded.

Joseph Haskell (e. 1703)  
James Parsons (e. 1703)  
John Parsons (elev. to ruling elder 1756)  
Philemon Warner (elev. to ruling elder 1756;  
m. 1772)  
Eliezer Grover (e. 1756)  
Jeremiah Parsons (e. 1756)  
Nymphus Stacy, Sr.  
Isaac Parsons  
Nathaniel Kinsman (e. 1772)  
Hubbard Haskell (e. 1772; d. ca. 1806)  
Nymphus Stacy, Jr. (e. 1772)

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1. White reports: "I remember as Introductory to our Election of Ruling Elders, towards Thirty Years ago, I preached from those Words, Num. 11. 25. And the Lord came down in a Cloud, and spake unto him, that is to Moses, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and gave it to the Seventy Elders. There is the residue of the Spirit to furnish for every Office of Trust to which one and another is chosen. And in that the getting Ruling Elders was opposed by many in Town and Church, I preached another Sermon from those Words in 2 Tim. 2. 25. In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves. Reformations are commonly attended with great Objections. Lay aside then I pray, your objecting, and attend your duty." New Englands Lamentations, The Decay of the Power of Godliness; The Danger of Arminian Principles; The Declining State of our Church-Order, Government and Discipline. Added, Reasons for adhering to our Platform, and Answers to some Objections against Ruling Elders. By a Provincial Assembly of Presbyterian Ministers at London, 1649 (Boston, 1734), p. 36.

STONEHAM, CR I, entry for Nov. 16, 1747, testifies to the existence of ruling elders at Gloucester's First Church in that year.



The seventeenth-century records were noted as missing in 1891.<sup>1</sup> The church records reported as extant in 1941 and covering the years 1703-1805, have since dropped from sight. The extant records are owned and held by the Cape Ann Scientific, Literary and Historical Association, Gloucester.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1703-1805.

VS I - Anna M. Pickford, "Marriages from the Almanac Diary, 1761-1764, of Rev. Samuel Chandler of Gloucester, Mass.," NEHGR, LVI (1902), 318-319.

CR II - "No 2. Sept<sup>r</sup> 8th 1805 Gloucester." 1806-1849.

PR I - "Records of the Meetings and Actions of the first Parish in Gloucester. Begun Janry 29. 1728/9." 1729-1834.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1834-1869.

PR III - Parish Records, 1869-1914.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1817-1831, 1826-1836, 1832-1836; Parish Collector's Accounts, 1730-1803, 1802-1834; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1803-1893.

GLOUCESTER, Second (C), extinct.  
West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational  
Church (C).

The church was gathered as the Second Church in Gloucester on Oct. 4, 1716, the Second Parish having been incorporated

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1. John J. Babson, Notes and Additions to the History of Gloucester. Part Second: Early Records (Salem, 1891), p. 3.

2. Frederick L. Weis, "Early Records of the Seventeenth Century Churches in Massachusetts Which Became Unitarian," UHSP, VII, ii (1941), 15-16.



four months earlier. The last settled minister ceased to act in 1820, and for a time the church was supplied by Universalist preachers, although there is no evidence that a declaration for Universalism was ever made. In 1833, the church was reorganized (including some members of the Second Church) as the West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church, duly incorporated in 1893.

Ministers: Samuel Tompson (ord. 1716; d. 1724)  
 Richard Jaques (ord. 1725; d. 1777)  
 Daniel Fuller (ord. 1770; cta. 1820; d. 1829)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Ens. William Haskell (e. 1727; e. confirmed 1731)  
 Jacob Haskell (e. and e. confirmed 1731)  
 John Sawyer (e. 1757; rem. 1764)  
 Nathaniel Haskell (e. 1757; d. 1808)  
 Lt. Robert Choate (e. 1770; d. 1790)  
 John Roberts (e. 1770; d. 1793)  
 Stephen Haskell (e. 1802; d. 1809)  
 Zebulon Haskell (e. 1802; d. ca. 1833)

The extant records of the Second Church are owned and held by the Cape Ann Scientific, Literary and Historical Association, Gloucester. Records of the reorganized West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church, commencing 1839, are owned and held by that body.

CR I - "Records of the 2d Chh in Gloucester. Begun March 23d-1723. by S.T. (Note misleading second title, added by a later hand: "Records of the Second Parish [sic], Gloucester, Massachusetts.") Church records, largely vital statistics, 1725-1840.

PR I - "The new precinct Book for the Clark -- Clerks Book." Precinct/parish records, 1716-1803.

PR I COPY - MS copy of PR I, made in 1935 by Charles G. Fogg.

See Daniel A. Fuller, The Diary of the Rev.<sup>d</sup> Daniel Fuller (New York, 1894).



## GLOUCESTER, Annisquam Village Church.

The church was gathered on June 11, 1728 as the Third Church in Gloucester. Annisquam Parish (Gloucester Third Parish) was incorporated in the same year. During Leonard's ministry, the church adopted Universalist principles, dropping that denominational affiliation early in the present century. Briefly connected with the Community Church movement, it is currently unattached to any denomination.

Ministers:	Benjamin Bradstreet	(ord. 1728; d. 1762)
	John Wyeth	(ord. 1766; disp. 1768; d. 1811)
	Obediah Parsons	(ord. 1772; disp. 1779; d. 1801)
	Ezra Leonard	(ord. 1804; d. 1832)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to incomplete church records, the names of only three deacons have survived.

James Davis, Esq.	(e. 1734; d. 1776)
Samuel Griffen	(m. 1772-1781)
Thomas Marrett	(e. 1773; rem. 1781)

The early records survive in fragmentary form in a copy made in 1804; they are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1728- .<sup>1</sup>

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, -1804.

CR III - "The third Book of Records of the Third Church in Gloucester Began at the Ordination of Ezra Leonard AD 1804 Dec<sup>m</sup> 5." Church records, 1772-1781 (a copy), and scattered nineteenth century votes; vital statistics, 1728-1781, 1804-1831, 1844-1875.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Described by Parsons, CR III, p. 120, as "much shattered & some leaves I suppose to be missing."

2. A note on p. 98 reads: "Let it be remembered that no record of any Church meetings or even of the existence of a Church can be found after the Death of Rev. Ezra Leonard. No Record of Deaths or Births or Marriages under the Ministries of Revs E Trull John Harriman G C Leach."



PR I - "Records (Annisquam Parish), 1728 to 1772. Town of Gloucester." Some minor mutilations.

PR II - "Third Parish, Gloucester. Vol. 2." 1773-1831.

PR III - "Third Parish, Gloucester. Vol. 3." 1831-1905.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1818-1819, 1821-1823, 1826 (two copies), 1833-1834, 1834, 1848, 1866; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1833-1836, 1848-1854.

GLOUCESTER, Fourth (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Oct. 27, 1743, the Fourth Precinct having been incorporated the previous year. Preaching ceased after Rogers' death; thereafter the meetinghouse was used by itinerant Methodist evangelists, until it was abandoned in 1840.<sup>1</sup>

Minister: John Rogers (ord. 1744; d. 1782)

Ruling elders and deacons: in the absence of any church records, the name of only two deacons have survived, as delegates to an ordination at Gloucester's First Church.

John Low (m. 1772)  
David Allen (m. 1772)

See John J. Babson, History of the Town of Gloucester, Cape Ann, Including the Town of Rockport (Gloucester, 1860), pp. 226, 312.

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1. No evidence has been found that the parish declared for Universalism, as reported by Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 251.

GLOUCESTER, Fifth Church and Parish (see Rockport).

GLOUCESTER, Sandy Bay Church (see Rockport).

GLOUCESTER, Third Church and Parish (see Gloucester, Annisquam).

GOSHEN (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 21, 1780 as the Church in Chesterfield Gore; the parish was organized in the same year. The names were changed when the area became the town of Goshen in 1781.

Minister: Samuel Whitman (inst. 1788; dism. 1818;  
d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Oliver Taylor (e. 1787; d. 1826)  
Artemas Stone (e. 1787; d. 1790)  
Thomas Brown (e. 1790; d. 1801)  
Justin Parsons (e. 1801)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1780-1798.

CR I COPY & II - "Copy of the Records of the Congregational Church in Goshen, December 21, 1780 to 1798. Then



Chesterfield Gore." Copy of CR I, 1780-1798; church records, 1798-1820.

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1820-1854.

CR IV - "Goshen Church Records." 1854-1887.

CR V - "Records of Congl Church in Goshen, Commencing March 1st, 1888. Chh organized Dec. 21st, 1780." 1888-1937.

SR I - "Book of Records for the Congregational Society, Goshen, Sept. 8th, 1829." 1828-1842.

SR II - "Book of Records for the Congregational Society, Goshen, April 15, 1844. Vol. 2." 1843-1854.

SR III - "Records of the Congl. Society, Goshen. 1855. Vol. 3." 1854-1873.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1871-1939.

GRAFTON, Hassanamesit Indian Church (C), extinct.

Hassanamesit (or Hassanamisco) was established as a praying town in 1670 by John Eliot, and a church was gathered

here on Sept. 23, 1671.<sup>1</sup> Whether the church, like the praying town, survived the vicissitudes of King Philip's War, is uncertain; it was extinct a number of years before the gathering of the English church at Grafton in 1731. See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers: Joseph Tuckappawill<sup>2</sup> (Indian preacher, active here from 1669; cta. 1677)  
 Job Kattenanit (Indian preacher, here and Ashland [Magunkog] ca. 1675)  
 Grindal Rawson (ord. Mendon 1684, associated with Indian praying town there; d. 1714/15)  
 James "Printer" (Indian preacher, also active at Uxbridge [Waeuntug] 1708; d. ca. 1717)

Ruling elder: Piambohous (Natick Indian, ca. 1671)

Deacon: Naoas (ca. 1671)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of the church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

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1. "23d of 7th [1671]. A church of Indians gathered at Nipmug, or Forty-mile River." Samuel Jennison (ed.), "The Diaries of John Hull, Mint-master and Treasurer of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. From the Original Manuscript in the Collection of the American Antiquarian Society. With a Memoir of the Author," AASTC, III (1857), 231. GRAFTON, CR I, p. 3, states: "Note. The Indian church which was gathered in This place was The second native ch in N E: it was formed either by Rev John Eliot or some one raised up Thro his instrumentality -- It is said to have been one of The most permanent establishments of The kind &c yet it wd seem as if it continued but a short time in its original state. It was formed in 1671 & three years after contained, it is said, about 16 members living in y<sup>e</sup> town, besides several residing in other places. But 60 years after, as appears from this Book, it was necessary to form another, and none were natives probably."

2. Sometimes given as "Tukapewillin," "Tuppukkoowelim," or "Tappakkoowillim."



GRAFTON, The Congregational Church (C).  
Unitarian Congregational Society (U).

The church was gathered on Dec. 28, 1731 as the Church in Hassanamisco. Old Lights opposed to the minister withdrew in 1743, but returned to the church after his dismissal four years later. However, a New Light secession in 1751 had quite different results, for by 1767 these persons had been absorbed into Grafton's First Baptist Church. The doctrinal controversies of the early nineteenth century saw the orthodox majority of the Grafton church withdrawing to organize the Evangelical Congregational Church in 1831. The following year, they created the Evangelical Congregational Society, and in 1837 obtained incorporation for the Proprietors of the Evangelical Congregational Meeting House. The town church, consisting then of persons of Unitarian sympathies, reorganized; its related prudential body took the name of The Congregational Society, and in 1864 the Proprietors of the Congregational Church received incorporation.

Ministers:	Solomon Prentice	(ord. 1731; disp. 1747; d. 1773)
	Aaron Hutchinson	(ord. 1750; disp. 1772; d. 1800)
	Daniel Grosvenor	(ord. 1774; disp. 1788; d. 1834)
	John Miles	(ord. 1796; disp. 1826; d. 1849)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	James Whipple	(e. 1732; d. 1766)
	Samuel Cooper	(e. 1732; m. 1744)
	Joseph Merriam	(e. 1742; d. 1797)
	Abner Stow	(e. 1750; d. ca. 1783)
	Joseph Batchelder	(e. 1765; m. 1789)
	Joseph Merriam, Jr.	(e. 1790; d. 1821)
	Jonathan Stow	(e. 1790)

The records are owned by the Congregational Church, and deposited with the Town Clerk.

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1. For the controversy regarding ownership of these records, see Frederick C. Pierce, History of Grafton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, from Its Early Settlement by the Indians in 1647 to the Present Time, 1879 (Worcester, 1879). Records of the Unitarian body date from 1835 and are not recorded in the inventory.



CR I - "The Church Book, Hasanamisco - March IIIId AD 1775 1731/2." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Records of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ att Hassanamisco Gathered the 28th of December Anno Domni: 1731.") 1731-1774.

CR II - "Grafton Octr 19. 1774 -- 1774. Records of the church of Christ in Grafton from Octr 19 1774 to April .". (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church of Christ in Grafton - A.D. 1774.") 1774-1828.

CR III - "No. 3. Records of the Church of Christ in Grafton from May 30. 1828. to January 1st 1877."

CR IV - "Records -- Evangl. Cong. Church -- Grafton, Mass." 1877-1929.

SR I - "Records of the Evangelical Congregational Society in Grafton Organized February the 27th AD 1832." 1832-1900.

Miscellaneous records: "Text Book 1838" containing church business memoranda, 1838-1845; Society Assessors' Rate Book, 1832-1869, 1862-1873.

GRAFTON, Old Light Separate Church (C), extinct.

A separation by Old Lights from the town church occurred in 1743, the seceders proceeding to gather a Separate church by 1747, as indicated by the following excerpt from GRAFTON, CR I, 88: "The Chh of Christ in Grafton Voted to accept the whole Result of the venerable Council conven'd at Grafton July.7th. 1747 The 2d Paragraph of which is as follows. Secondly. In Answer to the Desire of the Chh of Christ here respecting their separating Members both Male & Female we are heartily greived to find that notwithstanding the Solemn Precautions which have been administred they have not only continued to Meet elsewhere but have proceeded some of them so farr as to Sign another Covenant and we Judge that they have been not only chargeable with a disorderly breaking away from the Communion of this Chh of Christ but that such their Combination & covenanting together is very sinful & dangerous and is matter of deep Lamentation by all."



With the dismissal of New Light Solomon Prentice by the town church in 1747, the Separates returned to the parent body.<sup>1</sup>

No records of this church are known to exist, nor is there any data on its lay officers (if such were elected).

GRAFTON, New Light Separate Church (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on March 20, 1751 by New Lights who had seceded from the town church, following the dismissal of New Light Solomon Prentice. It was absorbed by Grafton's First Baptist Church, organized in 1767.

Minister: Ebenezer Wadsworth (ord. 1751; cta. 1767)

No records of this church are known to exist, nor is there any data on its lay officers. See C. C. Goen, loc. cit.

GRANBY (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 3, 1762 as the Second or East Church in South Hadley, the Second or East precinct having been organized slightly earlier. The town of Granby was incorporated in 1768, and the church and parish took the title of First Church and Parish. In 1821, the First Parish divided into East and West Parishes (continuity remaining with the former body) and independent churches were established; fifteen years later, the churches and parishes were reunited.

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1. Not having read the church records, C. C. Goen is unaware of the fact that a church was gathered by the seceding Old Lights. Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 56, 314.

Ministers: Simon Backus (ord. 1762; dism. 1784;  
d. 1823)  
Benjamin Chapman (ord. 1790; dism. 1796;  
d. 1804)  
Elijah Gridley (inst. 1797; d. 1834)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: there being no extant early records, the only deacon of whom anything is known is Nathan Smith (m. 1779-1782).<sup>1</sup>

It was noted in 1875 that there are no records antedating 1821;<sup>2</sup> the extant records are owned by the church and deposited at the local library.

CR I - Church Records, 1821-1858.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1858-1913.

PR I - "Records of the east religious Society in Granby." 1825-1844.

PR II - Parish Records, 1845-1876.

PR III - Parish Records, 1877-1913.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1846-1874.

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1. The Deacons John Smith I and John Smith II mentioned in the early parish records were officers of the South Hadley church.

2. Manual of the Church of Christ in Granby, Mass., including a Historical Sketch, Articles of Faith, Baptismal Covenant for Children, and the Executive Rules. August, 1875 (Springfield, 1875).



GRANBY, East Church and Parish (see Granby, First).

GRANVILLE, First, Federated (C).

The church was gathered in 1747. Successive partitionings of the town into two and then three parishes found the church located in the area known first as Granville (to 1784), then East Granville, and finally as Granville and Granville Center.<sup>1</sup>

Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1797; the East Parish was reorganized in 1844. In 1937 the church federated with local Baptists.

Ministers:	Moses Tuttle	(ord. 1746/47; rem. 1752-1753; d. 1785)
	Jedidiah Smith	(ord. 1756; dism. 1776; d. 1776)
	Timothy Mather Cooley, D.D.	(ord. 1796; d. 1859)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Justus Rose	(e. 1757; d. 1781)
	Luke Hitchcock	(e. 1758; d. 1775-1777)
	Samuel Coe	(e. 1759; d. 1790)
	Ephraim Howe	(e. 1791; d. 1806)
	Isaac Bartlett	(e. 1791-1793; res. 1796; d. 1817)
	William Cooley	(e. 1793-1798; d. 1825)
	Timothy Rose	(e. 1797; rem. 1808; d. 1813)

There are no records antedating 1791; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

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1. The second church (1781) of Granville was located in the area known successively as the Second or West Parish, the Middle Parish, and (today) West Granville. The third church (1798) was situated in what became known successively as the Third or West Parish, today the town of Tolland.

CR I - "Records of the first Church of Christ in Granville." 1791-1821.

CR II - "Church records of the first Church of Christ in Granville." 1821-1848.

CR III - "Records of the First Church of Granville." 1848-1861.

CR I, II, III COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Records of the First Church of Christ in Granville: A book for the First Church of Christ in Granville." Copy of church records, 1791-1861, owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR IV - "Records of Congregational Church, East Granville, Mass., beginning June 30th 1859." 1859-1881.

CR V - "Church Records." 1881-1902.

PR I - "Granville East Parish Records." 1844-1926.

See Albion B. Wilson, History of Granville, Massachusetts (Hartford, 1954).

#### GRANVILLE, Second (West) (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 19, 1781 as the Second Church in Granville, being located in the area successively designated as West Granville, Middle Granville, and (with the incorporation of the town of Tolland) West Granville.

Ministers:	Lemuel Haynes	(sett. 1781; ord. 1785; rem. 1785)
	Aaron Booge	(inst. 1786; dism. 1796; d. 1822)
	Joel Baker	(ord. 1797; dism. and d. 1833)

Ruling elders: none.



Deacons:	Col. Timothy Robinson	(e. 1786; d. 1804)
	Capt. Aaron Coe	(e. 1786)
	Lt. David Parsons	(e. 1797; d. 1820)
	Elihu Adkins	(e. 1797; d. 1825)
	Cornelius Merry	(e. 1798; rem. 1803)
	Roger Adams	(e. 1803; res. 1805)
	Capt. Elihu Pomery	(e. 1805)

The original records, extant in 1901,<sup>1</sup> have since disappeared.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1781-1836.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1833-1885.

CR I, II COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "West Granville, Mass. & Middle Granville, Mass. Records of Congregational Church." Copy of church records, 1781-1885, made in 1901; owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

GRANVILLE, East Church and Parish (see Granville, First, Federated).

GRANVILLE, Second Church (see Granville, West).

GRANVILLE, Third Parish and Church (see Tolland).

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1. The 1901 location of the records reported by Cooke cannot be verified today.

GRANVILLE, West Parish and Church (see Tolland).

GREAT BARRINGTON (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 28, 1743 as the Second Church in Sheffield. The North Parish of Sheffield had been organized in 1740, and was incorporated in 1761, when the area was made the town of Great Barrington. The Protestant Congregational Society was incorporated in 1791.

Ministers:	Samuel Hopkins, D.D.	(ord. 1743; dism. 1769; d. 1803)
	Isaac Foster	(ord. 1787; dism. 1790; d. 1794)
	Elijah Wheeler	(ord. 1806; res. 1823; d. 1827)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Jonah Pixley	(e. 1743; d. 1759)
	Timothy Hopkins	(e. 1753; d. ca. 1773)
	Israel Root	(e. 1773; d. 1809)
	Daniel Nash	(e. 1773; d. 1794)
	Elijah Kingsley	(e. 1797)
	Eleazar Barritt	(e. 1800; rem. 1816)

The records are owned and, unless otherwise noted, held by the church.

C COV - Original covenant and confession of faith, 1743; signed by Samuel Hopkins et alii. MS owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1743-1753.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1753-1835.

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1. CR II ABSTRACT & II, p. 31, contain a memorandum in the handwriting of the minister who served from 1837 to 1850, stating the loss of all records antedating 1753.



CR II ABSTRACT & III - "Records of the first Congregational Church In Great Barrington from its establishment till January 1, 1870." Partly an abstract, partly a copy of church records, 1753-1835; church records, 1835-1870.

CR II ABSTRACT & III COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Great Barrington, Mass., Congregational Church." Copy made in 1900, owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR IV - "Vol. 2. Records of the first Congregational Church, 1st Jany. A.D. 1870 to Jan. 1st, 1919."

VS I - "(3) Congregational Church of Great Barrington, Mass." Register of church officers, 1743-1935 (many errors); admissions, 1809-1929.

#### GREENFIELD, First (C).

The church was gathered on March 28, 1754, and the First Parish incorporated in the same year. Church and parish/society were incorporated as one body in 1954.

Ministers: Edward Billings (inst. 1754; d. 1760)  
Roger Newton, D.D. (ord. 1761; d. 1816)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Benjamin Hastings (e. 1762)  
Ebenezer Graves (m. 1766; res. 1805)  
David Smead (e. 1773; res. 1805)  
Jonathan Leavitt, Esq. (e. 1799; m. 1802)  
Solomon Smead, Esq. (e. 1805)  
Proctor Purvis (e. 1805; rem. 1806)

There are no extant records for the first pastorate. Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Record of the First Church in Greenfield, from Nov. 18. 1761 the date of the Ordination of Rev. Roger Newton, to 1812 -- Births, Marriages, Deaths &c with a



personal Diary Kept by Mr. Newton." Owned and held by the Pocumtuck Valley Historical Association, Old Deerfield.

VS I PUB - Francis M. Thompson, "Extracts from the Diary of Rev. Roger Newton, D.D., of Greenfield, Mass.," NEHGR, LXII (1908), 263-273.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1812-1852.

CR III - "Records." 1852-1908.

PR I - Parish Records, 1817-1884.

SR II - "Record." Society records, 1885-1928.

Miscellaneous records: MS copy "Results of two Councils held at Greenfield Dec. 12, 1753 and Mch 29. 1754 When the church at Gfd was established an Edward Billing Settled as Minister - Jona. Ashley and Jona. Edwards Moderators," owned and held by the Pocumtuck Valley Historical Association; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1895-1930.

GREENWICH, First (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Dec. 20, 1749 as the Church in Quabbin Parish. The parish was set off by the General Court in 1739 and incorporated ten years later; formerly it was part of Narragansett Township No. 4 (so-called because it constituted a grant to soldiers who had helped put down an uprising among the Narragansett Indians). In 1787 the town was divided into two parishes, the North containing the 1749 church, and the South later to become the town of Enfield.

The church became extinct when the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir in 1936 destroyed Greenwich and the neighboring towns. Before disbanding, however, the church organized the Greenwich Church Foundation and Memorial, whose moderator and trustees are by requirement of the charter, the pastor and officers of the East Congregational Church of Ware.



Ministers: Peletiah Webster (ord. 1749; dism. 1755;  
d. 1795)  
Robert Cutler (inst. 1760; d. 1786)  
Joseph Blodgett (sett. 1786; d. 1833)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: David Powers (e. 1749-1750; res. 1760;  
d. 1773)  
Simon Stone (e. 1761; d. 1785)  
Nathan Fisk (e. 1761; rem. 1772)  
Capt. Luke Hitchcock (e. 1771)  
Nehemiah Stebbins (e. 1777; d. 1804)  
Ezra Alden (e. 1785; rem. 1801)  
Deacon Roland Clark (e. 1801; rem. 1808)  
Andrew Sears (e. 1802-1805)<sup>1</sup>

There are no records antedating 1760; the extant records are owned by the Greenwich Church Foundation and Memorial, and deposited at a bank in Ware.

CR I - "The Records of the Church of Christ in Greenwich from the Instalment of the Revd. Robert Cutler, Feby. y<sup>e</sup> 13th 1760." 1760-1829.

CR II - "Records of the Church of Christ in Greenwich from the Installation of the Rev. Joseph H. Patrick Nov, 17. 1830 -- Greenwich Mass." 1830-1854.

CR III - "Church Record." "Record of the church in Greenwich from the ordination of Rev. Edwd P. Blodgett July 5th 1843." 1843-1894.

SR I - Society Records, 1865-1935.

Miscellaneous records: Records of "The Orthodox Parsonage Corporation of Greenwich," 1848-1868.

See Donald W. Howe et alii, Quabbin: The Lost Valley (Ware, 1951).

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1. The Deacon Jonathan Burt who died at Greenwich in 1807 was probably not an officer of this church.

GREENWICH, North Parish (see Greenwich).

GREENWICH, South Parish (see Enfield).

GROTON, First Church (U).

The church was gathered on July 13, 1664, and the First Parish organized in 1789 (reorganized in 1826). The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1804 and reincorporated (under a slightly different title) in 1814.

In or about 1776, a number of Tory sympathizers withdrew from the church, and under the leadership of Rev. Samuel Dana, organized a Presbyterian church, which by 1799 had become extinct, its members returning to the parent body.

Ministers:	[John Miller	(sett. 1662; d. 1663)]
	Samuel Willard	(ord. 1664; disp. 1676; d. 1707)
	Gershom Hobart	(ord. 1679; rem. 1690; returned 1693; res. 1704; d. 1707) <sup>1</sup>
	Dudley Bradstreet	(ord. 1706; rem. 1712; d. 1714)
	Caleb Trowbridge	(ord. 1714/15; d. 1760)
	Samuel Dana	(ord. 1761; disp. 1775; d. 1798)
	Daniel Chaplin, D.D.	(ord. 1778; disp. 1826; d. 1831)

Ruling elders: none.

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1. It does not appear that Samuel Carter, who supplied the pulpit during Hobart's absence 1690-1693, was ever settled over the church.



Deacons: due to the lack of seventeenth century records, nothing is known of the Groton diaconate prior to 1708.

----- Whitney	(m. 1708; res. 1709 or 1715)
John Farnesworth	(e. 1708; res. 1709 or 1715)
Thomas Tarbell	(e. 1709 or 1715; d. 1757 ?)
Simon Stone, Sr.	(e. 1709 or 1715; d. 1741)
John Longley	(e. 1722; d. 1750)
Daniel Farnesworth	(e. 1729; d. 1775)
James Stone	(e. 1742; d. 1783)
Joseph Farwell <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1750; d. 1783)
Zachariah Longley	(e. 1766; rem. 1797)
Isaac Farnesworth	(e. 1773; m. 1799)
Benjamin Bancroft	(e. 1773; d. 1804)
Thomas Farwell	(e. 1783; rem. 1790)
Samuel Lawrence	(e. 1783; m. 1817)
Amos Farnesworth	(e. 1797-1799; m. 1806)
Samuel Rockwood	(e. 1797-1799; d. 1804)

There are no records antedating 1706; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1706-1760.

CR I PUB - Samuel A. Green (ed.), "The Earliest Church Records in Groton," GHS, I, x (1886, published 1887). Complete publication of CR I, but rearranged in chronological sequence.

CR II - "Groton Church Book." 1761-1797.

CR III - "Groton Church Book 1798. From 1797." 1798-1830.

CR II & III PUB - Samuel A. Green (ed.), "Early Church Records in Groton," GHS, IV, i (1896, published 1899). Publication of CR II and CR III, chronologically rearranged, and nearly all disciplinary action omitted.

CR IV - "Records of the First Church of Christ in Groton." 1826-1880.

PR I - Parish Records, 1789-1803.

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1. Joseph Farwell's diary, which makes mention of some church affairs, has been excerpted in NEHGR, XXXV (1881), 275-276.

PR II - Parish Records, 1803-1816.

PR III - Parish Records, 1816-1831, 1839.

PR IV - MISSING, Parish Records, 1831-1847.

PR V - "Records of the first Parish, Groton." 1847-1861.

PR VI - "Records: Groton, First Parish." 1861-1914.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1815-1843; "Barron & Sawtell Charity Fund" Accounts, 1833-1922.

GROTON, West Parish (see Pepperell).

#### GROVELAND (C).

The church was gathered on June 7, 1727 as the Second Church in Bradford. The Second or East Parish in Bradford had been incorporated the preceding year. In 1850 the parish was made the town of Groveland, and the church took the title of the Orthodox Congregational Church, incorporating in 1889, at which latter date the Congregational Society (incorporated in 1851) was dissolved.

Ministers: William Balch (ord. 1727; d. 1792)  
Ebenezer Dutch (ord. 1779; d. 1813)

Ruling elder: Samuel Tenney is mentioned as a Groveland ruling elder in CR I, p. 99, and as a deacon, *ibid.*, p. 582. Actually he was an officer of the West or Bradford Church, elected a deacon in 1713 and elevated to ruling elder in 1718.

Although Manual of the Congregational Church of Groveland, Mass. (Groveland, 1891) claims him to have been elected a deacon at Groveland in 1727, it is uncertain if Tenney



actually terminated his membership and office at Bradford. He probably maintained a relationship with both churches, one formal, the other informal, until his death in 1740.

Deacons:	Richard Bailey	(e. 1727; d. 1748)
	William Hardy, Jr.	(e. 1728; d. 1759)
	Jonathan Tenny	(e. 1747; res. 1764; d. 1786)
	Nathaniel Jewett	(e. 1759; rem. 1764)
	Timothy Hardy	(e. 1764; d. 1777)
	Philip Tenny	(e. 1764; res. 1777; d. 1783)
	William Balch, Jr.	(e. 1779; res. 1797; d. 1806)
	Thomas Tenny	(e. 1779; d. 1798)
	William Tenny	(e. 1797; d. 1826)
	Phineas Carleton	(e. 1800; d. 1809)
	Daniel Stickney	(e. 1805; d. 1840)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1727-1787.

CR I COPY GROVE - "Congregational Church Records." Copy made in 1887 of church records, 1727-1887; continued through 1903.

CR I COPY CONG - Copy owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston.

VS I - "Groveland Church Records, EIHC, LIX (1923), 81-85. Admissions and dismissions, 1727-1800.

PR I - "Parish Records Book 1st beginning AD. 1726." 1726-1813.

PR II - "Parish Records Beginning March 2, 1814." 1814-1889.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1738-1859; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1795-1851, 1849-1901.

## HADLEY, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 22, 1659; its society was organized during the nineteenth century, and the two incorporated as a single entity in 1920. The Trustees of the Congregational Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1824.

Ministers: John Russell, Jr. (inst. 1659; d. 1692)  
 Isaac Chauncy (ord. 1696; d. 1745)  
 Chester Williams (ord. 1740/41; d. 1753)  
 Samuel Hopkins, D.D. (ord. 1755; d. 1811)

Ruling elders: the only list of the church's lay officers is given in CR I at the back of the volume, and at least two hands are distinguishable in the prefacing of names with the symbol (#) which designates ruling elders. The later hand has applied the symbol to the sixth through the sixteenth names indiscriminately, suggesting that only the designations inscribed by the earlier hand are to be trusted.

William Goodwin (rem. ca. 1670)  
 Peter Tilton (d. 1696)  
 Philip Smith (d. 1685)

Deacons: if we are correct, the remaining names are those of deacons, given in the following order:

Nathaniel Dickinson (d. 1676)  
 Richard Goodman (d. 1676)  
 Samuel Church (d. 1684)  
 Nathaniel White (d. 1741)  
 Samuel Smith (rem. 1706)  
 John Smith (d. 1727)  
 Ichabod Smith (d. 1746)  
 Samuel Dickinson (d. elsewhere 1746)  
 Joseph Eastman (d. 1769)  
 Nathaniel Montague (d. 1753)  
 Enos Nash (d. 1768)  
 David Smith (d. 1771)  
 Jonathan Smith (d. 1774)  
 John Eastman (d. 1798)  
 Eleazar Porter (d. 1797)  
 Oliver Smith (d. 1808)  
 Charles Phelps (d. 1814)  
 Seth Smith (d. 1828)



The records for the years 1659-1765 were destroyed in a parsonage fire in the latter year. There is no trace of the records for 1765-1832, and it may be that they were sequestered by some church officer at the time of the secession of the persons constituting the Upper Mills (now North Hadley) church in the latter year. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1765-1832.

CR II - "Church Records." 1832-1935.

SR I - "Records, First R[eligious] Society." 1853-1920.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1832-1912.

See The First Congregational Church in Hadley. Three Hundredth Anniversary. July 12 - August 2, 1959 (Hadley, 1959). The historical sketch by Fern F. Nutter (also printed in The Daily Hampshire Gazette for Apr. 30, 1959) incorporates the findings of Frank H. Smith, unavailable elsewhere.

HADLEY, East Church and Precinct (see Amherst).

HADLEY, Second Church and Precinct (see South Hadley).

HADLEY, Third Church and Precinct (see Amherst).

## HALIFAX (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 16, 1734, and was sometimes referred to as "the church in Middleborough and Halifax." The church was incorporated in 1894.

Ministers:	John Cotton	(ord. 1735; disp. 1755; d. 1789)
	William Patten	(ord. 1758; disp. 1765; d. 1775)
	Ephraim Briggs	(ord. 1767; d. 1799)
	Abel Richmond	(ord. 1800; disp. 1832; d. 1843)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Samuel Sturtevant	(e. 1735)
	David Bosworth <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1735; d. 1747)
	Isaac Tinkham	(e. 1735; rem. 1755)
	Jonathan Bosworth	(e. 1741)
	Robert Waterman, Jr.	(e. 1741; m. 1751)
	Thomas Croade	(e. 1747)
	Moses Cushman	(e. 1757)
	Lt. Barnabas Thomson	(e. 1762)
	Joseph Bosworth	(e. 1762)
	Jacob Thomson	(e. 1769; suspended and res. 1806)
	Ellis Holmes	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1800)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited at the Town Hall.

CR I - "This Book contains y<sup>e</sup> Records of the Chh of Christ in Halifax Began Oct<sup>o</sup> 16, 1734." 1734-1833.

CR I COPY - Typescript copy.

CR I PUB - "Halifax Church Records," MD, XXVI (1924), 176-184, XXVII (1925), 24-35, 117-122, 179-186. Uncompleted publication project: some church records to 1743, baptisms to 1779, owners and renewers of the covenant to 1795.

CR II - Church Records, 1832-1891.

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1. See "Deacon David Bosworth's Will," MD, XXVII (1925), 79-81.



CR III - Church Records, 1892-1913.

PR/SR I - "Records of the Parish or Congl. Society of  
Halifax, Mass." 1885ff.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1825-  
1867.

# HAMILTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 12, 1714 as the Third Church in Ipswich, the Parish of Ipswich Hamlet having been incorporated the previous year. Hamilton was made a town in 1793, the title of church and parish being changed to First. The First Congregational Parish was incorporated in 1829 and dissolved in 1884, when it was succeeded by the duly-incorporated First Congregational Society.

Ministers: Samuel Wigglesworth (ord. 1714; d. 1768)  
Manasseh Cutler, D.D. (ord. 1771; d. 1823)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Gilbert (e. 1714; d. 1723)  
Matthew Whipple IV (e. 1714; d. 1764)  
John Thorn (e. 1723; d. 1758)  
John Patch, Jr. (e. 1758; d. 1775-1789)  
Nathaniel Whipple (e. 1764; d. 1809)  
Matthew Whipple (e. 1794; d. after 1815)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "The Third Church of Ipswich's Book." 1714-1745, largely vital statistics. Some pages have been removed.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1745-1778.

CR I COPY, II, III - "The Records of the Third Church of Christ in Ipswich, Mass." Copy of CR I, memoranda for 1768-1778, church records for 1778-1850.

CR IV - "The Records of the First Congregational Church of Christ in Hamilton, 1850." 1850-1962.

VS I - "Gleanings from the Records of the Church at Ipswich Hamlet," EIHC, V (1863), 240. Twenty vital statistics. Reprinted ibid., VI (1864), 111.

VS II - S. J. Spaulding, "Marriages in Hamilton, Mass., by Rev. Samuel Wigglesworth, 1714-1733," NEHGR, XXVI (1872), 386-388.

VS III - "Ipswich Church Records," EIHC, LVIII (1922), 23-24. Dismissions, 1773-1784.

PR I - "Records of Town Meetings." Town meeting records, 1712-1736; precinct/parish records, 1713-1790.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1790-1834.

PR III - "Parish Records." 1834-1883.

SR III - "Society Records." 1833-1927.

Miscellaneous records: Church Communion Accounts, 1846-1901; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1829-1846; Pew Deeds, 1843-1871; Meeting House Records, 1842-1858.

#### HAMPDEN, Federated (C).

Gathered in 1785, the church was known as the Church in South Wilbraham or the South Parish in Wilbraham (the latter incorporated in 1782). Hampden was made a town in 1878, and church and parish became the First in Hampden. In 1881, the First Congregational Society was incorporated. The church federated with local Methodists and Baptists in 1916.

Minister: Moses Warren (ord. 1788; d. 1829)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Enoch Burt (e. by 1788; d. 1809)  
John Hitchcock (e. by 1788; d. 1807)



The records are owned by the church, and deposited at the Town House.

CR I - "Church Book." 1788-1795, 1807-1830.

CR II - "Church Records, 1785-1895. First Congregational Church, Hampden, Mass."

#### HANOVER, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 11, 1728; the First Parish was organized in 1806.

Ministers:	Benjamin Bass	(ord. 1728; d. 1756)
	Samuel Baldwin	(ord. 1756; dism. 1780; d. 1784)
	John Mellen	(inst. 1784; rem. 1805; d. 1807)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Stockbridge	(e. 1729; d. 1773)
	Elijah Cushing	(e. 1729; rem. 1748)
	James Hatch	(e. 1733; d. by 1744)
	Isaac Buck	(e. 1733; d. <u>ca.</u> 1745)
	Thomas Josselyn	(e. 1739; d. <u>ca.</u> 1786)
	Thomas Rose	(e. 1745; d. 1778)
	Samuel Barstow	(e. 1745; d. 1801)
	Joseph Stockbridge <sup>1</sup>	(d. 1783)
	Timothy Robbins	(m. 1784; d. 1807)
	Joseph Brooks	(e. 1784; m. 1818)
	Benjamin Bass	(m. 1788; d. 1821)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited at a local bank.

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1. The records do not distinguish between the two Deacons Joseph Stockbridge, nor is there any record of the second Joseph's election to the diaconate. But their tombstones indicate that each served as a deacon, that Joseph Stockbridge (Sr.) died in 1773 at the age of 100, and that Joseph Stockbridge (Jr.) died ten years later, aged 85. See CR I, II, III PUB, pp. 280, 286.



CR I - "A Book of Records of the gathering settling & administrations of the Church in Hanover as also Marriages Births and Deaths in the said Town. It was made a Town June 14. 1727." 1728-1756.

CR II - "A Continuation of the Church Records in the Town of Hanover; -- Book 2d -- containing Admissions to full Communion; -- Dismissions from the Church; -- Those That have owned the Covenant and not Admitted to full Communion; -- Baptisms; Deaths; Marriages; -- And The Administrations & Votes of the Church on Special Occasions." 1756-1811; vital statistics to 1818.

CR III - "Records of the Congregational Church of Christ in Hanover Commencing with the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and nineteen And the ninety first year from the first gathering of the Church. Vol. III." 1819-1867.

CR I, II, III PUB - L. Vernon Briggs (ed.), History and Records of the First Congregational Church, Hanover, Mass., 1727-1865, and Inscriptions from the Headstones and Tombs in the Cemetary at Centre Hanover, Mass., 1727-1894. Being Volume I. of the Church and Cemetary Records of Hanover, Mass. (Boston, 1895). Briggs' publication gives special emphasis to genealogical material. The material is rearranged topically, and Briggs replaces entries he considers too verbose with his own summaries and omits items he considers unimportant.

CR IV - MISSING, Church Records, 1867-1885.

CR V - Church Records, 1885-1920.

PR I - "This Book belongs to the Northerly Precinct In Hanover So Called and is for the purpose of keeping the Clerk or Parish records Prise fifty Cents Beginning July 23d. 1806 being the day the Revd. Calvin Chaddock was Reinstald in this place." 1806-1868.

PROP I - "Records of Proprietors of Parsonage House and Lands in First or Central Parish Hanover." 1855-1873.

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Accounts, 1785-1800; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1806-1875, 1889-1893, 1893-1937; Records of Subscribers to Meetinghouse Fund, 1863-1865.



## HANSON (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 31, 1748 as the Church in the Second Precinct and West Parish (the latter bodies organized in 1746), and was frequently denominated the Second Church in Pembroke. The Trustees of the Church and Congregation in the Second Precinct were incorporated in 1795.

Hanson became a town in 1820, and the titles of the church and parish (now society) were accordingly changed. The society was dissolved in 1914.

Ministers: Gad Hitchcock, D.D. (ord. 1748; d. 1803)  
George Barstow (ord. 1803; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Daniel Hayford (e. 1749)  
John Bisbee, Jr. (e. 1749; m. 1750)  
William Phillips (e. 1755-1761)  
Daniel Crocker (e. 1755-1761)  
Jeremiah Stetson (e. 1773)  
Increase Robinson (e. 1773; res. 1783)  
William Delano (e. 1783; rem. 1805)  
Oliver Whittier (e. 1805)  
Jacob Bearce (e. 1805)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, ca. 1749-1858. Sketchy, fragile condition.

VS I - Mrs. Elroy M. Avery, "Baptisms in the Second Church of Christ in Pembroke, Mass., from 1748 to 1803," NEHGR, XLIX (1895), 286-292, 426-430, L (1896), 177-183, 317-321.

CR I COPY I & II - "The Records of the Congregational Church of Hanson. Copied 1861." Copy of CR I, with records 1858-1883.

CR III - Church Records, 1884-1904.

PR/SR I - Precinct Records, 1746-1819; Parish Records, 1820-1821; Society Records, 1821-1822.

SR II - Society Records, 1823-1901.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1836-1903; Records of Trustees of Church and Congregation, 1780-1914; Trustees Treasurer's Accounts, 1838-1914.

# HARDWICK, Federated (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 17, 1736 in the district or plantation known as Lambstown, which three years later became the town of Hardwick.

In 1827 the orthodox majority of the church withdrew, and formed the Calvinistic Church and First Congregational Society.

The original church and parish heard a succession of supply preachers, most of them Universalists, and in 1841 agreed to assist local Universalists (whose Society dated from 1824) in the building of a new meetinghouse. Thereafter, the First Church and Parish were identified with the Universalist tradition.

In recent years, the Calvinistic Church and the First Church have federated.

Ministers:	David White	(ord. 1736; d. 1784)
	Thomas Holt	(ord. 1789; res. 1805; d. 1836)
	William B. Wesson	(ord. 1805; dism. 1824; d. 1836)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Christopher Paige	(e. 1736; res. 1749)
	Joseph Allen	(e. 1736; d. 1793)
	Samuel Robinson	(e. 1746; res. 1749)
	John Carpenter	(e. 1749; rem. 1769)
	William Paige	(e. 1769; d. 1790)
	John Bradish	(e. 1774; rem. ca. 1778)
	Ebenezer Willis	(e. 1785; d. 1813)
	Nathaniel Paige	(e. 1785; rem. 1812)

There are no records whatsoever antedating 1820. The extant volume of church records is owned and held by the Calvinistic Church, the surviving book of (the Calvinistic) Society's records by the Universalist body.



CR I - "Records." Vital statistics, 1820-1878; church records, 1878-1920.

SR I - Society Records, 1833-1915.

See Manual of the Calvinistic Congregational Church of Hardwick, Mass. 1914 (n.p., 1914).

HARDWICK, Separate (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1750. In 1761, its members moved en bloc to Bennington, Vt., where together with Separates from Sunderland, Mass., they organized the First Church of Bennington. Their number was quickly increased by the arrival of the Separate Church from Newint, Ct., Separates from Amherst, Mass., and finally the pastor and members of the Westfield, Mass. Separate Church. During its eleven years in Massachusetts, the Hardwick church had no settled ministry, nor did it apparently ever employ ruling elders.

Deacons:	Capt. Samuel Robinson	(e. deacon Hardwick Calvinistic Church 1746; res. 1749; e. deacon Separate Church and emigrated to Bennington 1761; d. 1767)
	James Fay	(e. deacon Hardwick Separate Church and emigrated to Bennington 1761; returned to Hardwick 1777)
	John Fassett	(possibly a Hardwick Separate Church deacon, emigrated to Bennington 1761; d. 1794)

No records of the Hardwick Separate Church have survived.<sup>1</sup> See Isaac Jennings, Memorials of a Century. Embracing a Record of Individuals and Events chiefly in the Early

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1. The Bennington church records date from 1762, except for some slightly older records of the Newint, Ct. church.



History of Bennington, Vt. and Its First Church (Boston, 1869); Lois K. Mathews, The Expansion of New England (New York, 1909); C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 108.

HARTWOOD (see Washington).

HARVARD, First Congregational Unitarian Church, Inc. (U).

The church was gathered on Oct. 10, 1733, and the First Parish organized in 1820. Church and parish were incorporated as a single body in 1909.

Ministers:	John Seccombe	(ord. 1733; dism. 1757; d. 1792)
	Joseph Wheeler	(ord. 1759; dism. 1768; d. 1793)
	Daniel Johnson	(ord. 1769; d. 1777)
	Ebenezer Grosvenor	(inst. 1782; d. 1788)
	William Emerson	(ord. 1792; dism. 1799; d. 1811)
	Stephen Bemis	(ord. 1801; dism. 1813; d. 1828)

Ruling elders: Deacon Phineas Fairbanks (e. 1795; d. 1800)<sup>1</sup>

1. In 1795, the church voted to employ the title of "elder" for those deacons who had resigned the diaconate due to poor health or old age. Four years later, it was further voted that "the five elders of the church be a committee thereof to attend to the discipline of the church, and particularly to visit and admonish such of our brethren, as may be irregular in their walk with us, or in any way, lead an unchristian life" (CR I, p. 268). In practice, the office appears to have been merely honorific.

Commenting under date of July 19, 1795, Rev. William Bentley remarked that in Harvard's meeting house, "There is a Seat for the Elders & for the Deacons before the Pulpit, which gives two rows of pews on each side" (The Diary of William Bentley, D.D., Pastor of the East Church, Salem, Massachusetts (Gloucester, 1962), II, p. 153. Not every church whose meeting house boasted an "elder's bench" actually employed ruling elders, however; e.g., the church at Lexington (see Bentley, op. cit., II, p. 147).



Deacon Samuel Mead	(e. 1795; d. 1814)
Deacon Oliver Whitney	(e. 1795; d. 1802)
Deacon Richard Harris, Jr.	(e. 1795; d. 1798)
Deacon Amos Fairbanks	(e. 1799; d. 1809)
Deacon Micah Stone	(e. 1799; d. 1806)

Deacons: Simon Stone	(e. 1733-1734; d. 1746) <sup>1</sup>
John Laughton	(m. 1750; d. 1768)
Joseph Fairbank(s)	(m. 1751; res. 1766; d. 1772)
Joseph Haskell	(m. 1751; res. 1766; d. 1791)
Jonathan Whitney	(m. 1758; res. 1766; d. 1773)
Phineas Fairbanks	(e. 1766; res. 1786; elev. to ruling elder 1795; d. 1800)
Lemuel Willard	(e. 1766; d. 1775)
Jeremiah Laughton	(e. 1766; d. 1775)
Oliver Whitney	(e. 1766; res. 1781; elev. to ruling elder 1795; d. 1802)
Samuel Mead	(e. 1775; res. 1786; elev. to ruling elder 1795; d. 1814)
Richard Harris, Jr.	(e. 1775; res. 1795; elev. to ruling elder 1795; d. 1798)
Amos Fairbanks	(e. 1786; res. 1798; elev. to ruling elder 1799; d. 1809)
Isaac Whitney	(e. 1786; d. 1815)
Micah Stone	(e. 1787; res. 1798; elev. to ruling elder 1799; d. 1806)
Israel Whitney	(e. 1798; res. 1807; dism. from office for Universalism 1819)
Benjamin Kimball	(e. 1799; res. 1807)
Jacob Fairbanks	(e. 1799)

The records are church property, and unless otherwise noted, are held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records Harvard 1733-1822." Held by the Town Clerk.

CR II - "Records of the Pastor of the First Parish in Harvard. Continued from Vol. 1st. Including records relating both to the Church & Society of said Parish." 1823-1955.

PR I - "Parish Records Vol. I." 1820-1909. Held by the Town Clerk.

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1. The Deacon Caleb Brown who died at Harvard in 1758 was apparently not an officer of this church.



HARVARD, Separate Church (C), extinct.

The history of Separatism at Harvard is obscure as to when the Separate Church was actually gathered. On Dec. 5, 1751, a committee of the First Church reported that advanced Separatist opinions were being propagated by persons in the northeast corner of the town. These secessionists had withdrawn from the worship and communion of the church, and were encouraging lay exhorters to hold forth in their homes. They further denied the churches of the standing order (and the First Church of Harvard in particular) to be true visible churches of Christ, insisting that such true churches may contain only the regenerates.

At some point during the years 1753-1760, a Separate preacher named Shadrach Ireland fled from Charlestown, Mass., and took up residence at Harvard. He became pastor of the Separate Church, in addition to his New Light tenets teaching the doctrines of his own bodily immortality, spiritual marriage, and possibly the community of goods and non-resistance. Ireland died in 1780, and the Separate movement foundered, being swiftly absorbed by Shakerism.

See Isaac Backus, A Church History of New-England (Boston, 1796), III, pp. 178-179; Seth Chandler, An Historical Discourse Delivered before the First Congregational Society in Harvard, Massachusetts, October 22, 1882 (Boston, 1884); Henry S. Nourse, History of the Town of Harvard, Massachusetts. 1732-1893 (Harvard, 1894), especially pp. 253-257; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 115, 254; C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 201, 314.



## HARWICH (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 6, 1747 as the Church of the Second Parish and South Precinct of Harwich.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers:	Edward Pell	(ord. 1747; d. 1752)
	John Dennis	(sett. 1756; res. 1760; d. 1773)
	Benjamin Crocker	(sett. 1762; cta. 1765; d. 1766)
	Jonathan Mills	(inst. 1766; d. 1773)
	Supplies	(1773-1792)
	Nathan Underwood	(ord. 1792; res. 1828; d. 1841)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Nathaniel Doane	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1748; d. 1756)
	Edward Hall	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1748; d. 1797)
	Gershom Hall	
	Edward Hall	(e. 1794; rem. 1811)
	John Smith	(e. 1796)

The records are church property and unless otherwise noted, are deposited at a local bank.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1747-1792.<sup>2</sup>

CR II - "Records of the Church of Christ in Harwich, 1792- .  
Vol. II." 1792-1825.

CR III - Church Records, 1832-1855.

CR IV - "Church and Parish Meetings, 1855-1899. First  
Congregational Church. Harwich."

PR I - "Records of the South Precinct, Harwich, Mass."  
1745-1803. At the church.

PR I COPY & II - "Records of the South Precinct, Harwich,  
Mass." Copy of PR I; parish records, 1803-1899.

1. The First or North Precinct is now the town of Brewster.

2. Extant in 1885. See Carroll D. Wright, Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties (Boston, 1889), p. 11.

PR DUP - "The Book of Records for the South Parish of Harwich, 1792-1857." Duplicate.

HARWICH, Separate Church of 1749 (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 23, 1749<sup>1</sup> by Harwich New Lights, and disbanded in 1789.

Ministers: Joshua Nickerson (ord. 1749; rem. 1772;  
d. 1791)  
Samuel Nickerson (sett. 1773; cta. 1789)

Ruling elders and deacons: the only known lay officer is the Deacon Eleazar Robbins mentioned in the records of the Harwich church of 1747.

No records of the church survive. See Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod: The Annals of The Thirteen Towns of Barnstable County (Boston, 1862), II, p. 516; Joshua Paine, A History of Harwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts (Rutland, Vt., 1937), p. 364; C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 95, 230.

HARWICH, Separate Church of 1751 (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Dec. 11, 1751 by persons dismissed from the Harwich Separate Church of 1749. The Baptist element of the 1751 church withdrew in 1757 to organize a church in harmony with their strict-communion

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1. See Paine, loc. cit.; Goen, op. cit., p. 230.



beliefs; the remnants of the 1751 church were probably absorbed by the 1749 church.

Minister: Richard Chase (ord. 1751; received adult baptism 1753; withdrew 1756-1757; inst. Harwich First Baptist Church 1756-1757; d. 1794)

There being no extant records of the church, nothing is known of the lay officers of this church. See the bibliographical entry for HARWICH, Separate Church of 1749.

HARWICH, First Precinct (see Brewster).

HARWICH, North Church, Precinct, Parish (see Brewster).

HARWICH, South Precinct and Parish (see Harwich).

HASSANAMESIT (or HASSANAMISCO) Indian Praying Town and Church (see Grafton, Hassanamesit Indian Praying Town and Church).

## HATFIELD (C).

The church was gathered at some point in 1670-1671; its parish was organized in 1830. The two bodies were incorporated in a single entity in 1944.

Ministers:	Hope Atherton	(ord. 1670-1671; d. 1677)
	Nathaniel Chauncy	(inst. 1683; d. 1685)
	William Williams	(ord. 1686; d. 1741)
	Timothy Woodbridge	(ord. 1739; d. 1770)
	Joseph Lyman, D.D.	(ord. 1772; d. 1828)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: in the absence of early records, a list of deacons was extracted from the town records by the historians of Hatfield.<sup>1</sup> The dates of election given are conjectural.

Edward Church	(e. 1670-1671; d. 1704)
John Coleman	(e. 1670-1671; d. 1712)
Samuel Marsh	(e. 1704-1706; d. 1728)
John White	(e. 1712; d. 1750)
Nathaniel Dickinson	(e. 1726; d. 1745)
Nathaniel White	(e. 1735; d. 1742)
Samuel Bodman	(e. 1735)
John Hubbard	(e. 1746; d. 1778)
John Belding	(e. 1746; d. 1758)
John Smith	(e. 1750)
Simeon Waite	(e. 1764; rem. by 1771)
Elijah Morton	(e. 1772; d. 1798) <sup>2</sup>
William Williams, Esq.	(e. 1772; d. 1808)
Obadiah Dickinson	(e. 1773; d. 1788)
Jonathan Porter	(e. 1785; d. 1833)
Lemuel Dickinson	(e. 1785; rem. ca. 1806)
Cotton Partridge	(e. 1799; d. 1846)

The loss<sup>3</sup> of all church records antedating 1772 was noted in 1910;<sup>3</sup> the extant records are owned and held by the church.

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1. Daniel W. and Reuben F. Wells, 1660 - A History of Hatfield, Massachusetts - 1910 (Springfield, 1910), p. 344.

2. The first diaconal election recorded in the extant records.

3. Wells, op. cit., p. 343. The authors also noted the absence of any parish records antedating 1876.



CR I - "Dr. Lyman's Church Record." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church of Christ in Hatfield, by Joseph Lyman, Pastor.") 1772-1867.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in Hatfield Commencing with year 1870." 1870-1939.

PR I - Parish Records, 1877-1944.

#### HAVERHILL, First Universalist-Unitarian (U).

The church was gathered on Oct. 24, 1645,<sup>1</sup> its parish being variously known as the First Parish, the Old Parish, and the South Parish.

During the early nineteenth century, the liberal wing of the church was able to prevent the settlement of an orthodox minister by bringing a number of Universalists into the parish; consequently, the orthodox withdrew in 1832 to form their own church and society. Five years later, perhaps by tacit agreement antedating the exodus of the orthodox, the Universalists departed, joining the already existing Universalist church and society.

The First Parish sold its church properties in 1926, but kept the society alive until 1950, when it federated with the First Universalist Church.

Ministers:	John Ward	(ord. 1645; d. 1693)
	Benjamin Rolfe	(ord. 1693/94; d. 1708)
	Joshua Gardner	(ord. 1710/11; d. 1715/16)
	John Brown	(ord. 1719; d. 1742)
	Edward Barnard	(ord. 1743; d. 1774)
	John Shaw	(ord. 1777; d. 1794)
	Abiel Abbot	(ord. 1795; dism. 1803; d. 1828)

Ruling elders: none.

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1. The 1641 date usually given for the church's founding is actually that of the creating of the town of Haverhill. For the 1645 date, see James K. Hosmer (ed.), Winthrop's Journal (New York, 1908), II, p. 262.



Deacons:	John White, Esq.	(m. 1717; res. 1721)
	John Hasaltine	(m. 1717; res. 1721)
	John Marsh	(e. 1721; d. 1735)
	James Ayer	(e. 1721; res. 1763)
	William White	(e. 1728; d. 1737)
	Daniel Little	(e. 1728; dism. 1731)
	Capt. Nicholas White	(e. 1738; m. 1755)
	Ens. David Marsh	(e. 1738; m. 1769)
	John Ayer	(e. 1763; m. 1769)
	Samuel Eames	(m. 1793; d. 1810)
	Joseph Dodge	(e. 1789; m. 1803)

There are no records antedating 1693. Unless otherwise noted, the extant records are owned by the church and deposited at the Haverhill Public Library.

CR I - "No. 1. Records of the 1st Church in Haverhill, Ms." Church records, 1721-1768, 1784, 1789, 1795; vital statistics, 1693-1796.

VS I - "Haverhill Church Records," EHC, LVII (1921), 141-147. Admissions and dismissions, 1720/21-1796.

CR II - "First Church Records. No. 2 from June 3, 1795 to Jan'y 1828." (Flyleaf: "Records of the first church in Haverhill, commencing with 3d of June 1795.") 1795-1827.

CR I, II & PR I COPY - "Records of First Parish." Notarized copy made in 1895 by M. F. Raymond; two volumes, identically titled. One volume contains only vital statistics of the church; the other contains the business transactions of the church and of the parish.

CR III - "No. 3. Records of the 1st Church in Haverhill Commenced January 9. 1828." 1828-1833, with vital statistics to 1840.

CR IV - "Records of the First Church, Haverhill. Commencing November. 1850." 1850-1853, 1870.

VS V - "Membership Record Book, Apr. 12, 1852 to April 24, 1962."

PR I - Parish Records, 1729-1833. A copy, contained in CR I, II & PR I COPY, above.

PR I DUP - Parish Records, 1730-1734, 1737.



PR II - "Records of the First Parish in Haverhill. From April 15th A.D. 1833 to October 9th 1900."

MF I - "Records of The Trustees of the Haverhill Congregational Ministerial Fund." 1823-1920.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1822-1866, 1866-1962 (the latter at the church); Parish Prudential or Standing Committee Accounts, 1808-1878 (at the Haverhill Historical Society); Pew Deeds, 1837-1890; Ministerial Fund Treasurer's Accounts, 1814-1866, 1866-1962.

See B. L. Mirick, The History of Haverhill, Massachusetts (Haverhill, 1832); George W. Chase, The History of Haverhill, Massachusetts, From Its First Settlement, in 1640, to the Year 1860 (Haverhill, 1861); Frank A. Gilmore, Historical Sketch of First Parish, Haverhill, Mass. (Haverhill, 1895).

#### HAVERHILL, North Parish Community Church (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 4, 1730 as the Church in the North Parish of Haverhill, which had been organized in 1728. The redrawing of the Massachusetts-New Hampshire line in 1741 ceded much of the area to New Hampshire, that which remained in Massachusetts being incorporated as "A Parish" in 1753. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund in the North Parish were incorporated in 1823. In 1859 the church was reorganized by act of an ecclesiastical council. Continued relations through the years between the Haverhill North Parish Church and Society, and the Plaistow (N.H.) and North Parish Congregational Church, resulted in 1930 in the federation of the two bodies, under the name of the North Parish Community Church, most of the subsequent activities of the congregation taking place in the Haverhill church building. The church was incorporated in 1949.

Ministers: James Cushing (ord. 1730; d. 1764)  
Gyles Merrill (ord. 1765; d. 1801)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Benjamin Kimball	(e. 1730/31; d. 1752)
	Deacon Daniel Little	(e. 1730/31)
	Thomas Johnson	(e. 1732; d. 1742)
	James White	(e. 1741; d. <u>ca.</u> 1792)
	Joseph Bradley	(e. 1741)
	Jonathan Kimball	(e. 1749; d. 1807)
	Benjamin Clement	(e. 1749; d. 1780)
	Isaac Snow	(e. 1784; d. 1789)

The records are owned and, unless otherwise noted, are deposited at the Haverhill Public Library.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1730-1827.

VS I - "Haverhill Church Records," EIHC, LVII (1921), 141-147. Admissions and dismissions, 1731-1774.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1825-1895.

CR I, II & MF COPY - "Records of the North Parish Congregational Church, 1730-1905." Undated typescript copy of the first two books of church records, and the records of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund (see below).

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1895-1949.

PR I - MISSING, Parish Records, 1728-1913.

PR I COPY - "North Parish Congregational Church [sic] Records, August 31, 1728 - April 24, 1913."

PR II - Parish Records, 1882-1949. At the church.

MF - Records of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, 1822-1949. At the church.

Miscellaneous records (at the church): "North Parish Cash Book," 1891-1939; Ministerial Fund Trustees Cash Book, 1899-1951.



## HAVERHILL, Third (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 22, 1735 as the Church in the West Parish of Haverhill, the parish having been organized in 1734. In 1761-1762, the church voted to become Presbyterian, but returned to Congregationalism as soon as the dismissal of the minister had been effected. During the years 1801-1826, the church found itself unable to make a satisfactory financial settlement with any candidate for the pulpit, due to the parish's policy of rebating the ministerial taxes of Baptist, Methodist and Universalist members of the parish. In 1829, the Congregationalists withdrew from the parish (then predominantly Universalist in sentiment) and in 1831 settled an orthodox minister; the parish in turn settled a Universalist.

In 1851 a dispute over the right to a legacy prompted the Congregationalists to offer the Universalists \$2400 for the right to become "The (West) Parish." The next year, the Universalists accepted, and reorganized as The First Universalist Society in the West Parish of Haverhill.<sup>1</sup> By this arrangement, the Congregational body became once again legally entitled to the name "The West Parish." The church was incorporated in 1921.

Ministers: Samuel Bachellor (ord. 1735; dism. 1761;  
d. 1796)  
Phineas Adams (ord. 1771; d. 1801)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Nathan Webster (e. 1735; d. 1741)  
Peter Ayer (e. 1735; cta. ca. 1771)  
Samuel Hasseltine (e. 1741; d. 1773)  
Stephen Webster III (e. 1747; d. 1793)  
John Smith (e. 1771; d. 1787)  
Thomas Webster (e. 1771; d. 1781)  
Moses Webster (e. 1782; d. 1827)  
Joseph Eaton (e. 1785; d. 1805)

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

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1. The Universalists ceased holding services in 1912, and church and society soon after became extinct.



CR I - "First Records of Third Church, With notes by Rev. E. W. Allen." (Flyleaf: "Records of The 3d Church in Haverhill No. 1. Samuel Bacheller his Book.") 1735-1752, with vital statistics to 1761.

CR II - "Records of the 3d Church in Haverhill No 2." Church records, 1762-1794, 1807, 1820-1821, 1824-1826.

CR I & II COPY - "Extract of Records of Church in W Haverhill." MS copy of vital statistics only, 1735-1824. Owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem.

CR III - "Records of the Church of Christ, Haverhill West Parish Dec. 27. 1826." 1826-1838.

CR IV - "No. 4. Records of The West or 3d. Church In Haverhill. 1838." 1838-1853.

CR V - "No. 5. Records of the West or third Church in Haverhill from March 29: 1853 to December 31: 1869." 1853-1869.

CR VI - "Records of the West Church, Haverhill. Volume VI: 1870 to 1880." 1870-1880.

CR VII - "Records of the West Church Haverhill Volume 7. 1880 to July 22, 1906." Church records, 1880-1906.

PR I - "Haverhill West parish's Book of Records 1734. Book Records of the West Parish of Haverhill 1734." 1734-1798/1802.

PR II - "Book of Records No 2 For Haverhill West Parish. January 1st 1799." 1799-1899.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1881-1922; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1815-1899; Parish Trustees Records, 1829-1914; Parish Trustees Treasurer's Accounts, 1828-1920.

Also extant are records of the Congregational Society for the interim apart from the West Parish (1829-1852): Society Records, 1842-1847; Proprietors Records, 1828-1852; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1828-1835; Parsonage Fund Accounts, 1832-1854.



## HAVERHILL, Fourth (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Nov. 28, 1744 as the Fourth Church (Church in the East Parish) of Haverhill, the parish having been organized in 1743. After the dismissal of Tory Benjamin Parker in 1777, the church suffered extensive membership losses and became inactive.

A new covenant and confession of faith was adopted in 1797, and on Jan. 11 of that year the church was reconstituted by act of ecclesiastical council. The last regular minister removed in 1906, and the church soon after became extinct.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers: Benjamin Parker (ord. 1744; dism. 1777; d. 1789)  
               Nehemiah Ordway (sett. 1789; rem. 1794)  
               Isaac Tompkins (ord. 1797; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Robert Hunkins (e. 1745; m. 1757; cta. by 1797)  
               Peter Green (e. 1745; m. 1757; cta. by 1797)  
               Joseph Kelley, Jr. (e. 1757; cta. by 1797)  
               Elias Johnson (e. 1797; res. 1837)  
               Francis Swan (e. 1797)

The records, unless otherwise noted, are owned and held by the Haverhill Historical Society.

CR I - "A Church Book of Records, for the Fourth Church, Haverhill." 1743-1785, largely vital statistics.

CR I COPY - "A Church Book of Records of The Fourth Church - Haverhill, Mass. 1743-1785." Typescript copy made in 1936, owned and held by the Haverhill Public Library.

PR I - "The Parish Book Haverhill, February The 6. 1797 Anno Domini." 1743-1836.

PR I COPY - "Record Book of the East Parish, Haverhill, Mass. Nov. 2, 1743 - July 5, 1836." Typescript copy made in 1936, owned and held by the Haverhill Public Library.

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1. The last vestige of the church and parish was the East Parish Sewing Society, whose sole surviving member died in 1938.

See B. L. Mirick, The History of Haverhill, Massachusetts (Haverhill, 1832); The Confession of Faith and Covenant of the East Congregational Church, in Haverhill, Ms. Organized A.D. 1743 - Reorganized Jan. 11, 1797 (Haverhill, 1855); George W. Chase, The History of Haverhill, Massachusetts, From Its First Settlement, in 1640, to the Year 1860 (Haverhill, 1861); Two Hundredth Anniversary of the East Parish Congregational Church, Haverhill, Mass. 1744-1944 (n.p., 1944).

HAVERHILL, East Church (see Haverhill, Fourth).

HAVERHILL, Old Parish (see Haverhill, First).

HAVERHILL, South Parish (see Haverhill, First).

HAVERHILL, West Church (see Haverhill, Third).



## HAVERHILL, Bradford, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 27, 1682 as the First Church in Bradford. In 1726, Bradford was divided into West and East Parishes (the former containing the First Church; the latter eventually to become the town of Georgetown). The Trustees of the Funds for the Support of a Congregational Gospel Minister in the First [West] Parish were incorporated in 1804. The Proprietors of the (West) Bradford Meeting House were incorporated in 1835 and again in 1851. The parish was dissolved when the church was incorporated in 1915.

Ministers:	Zechariah Symmes, Jr.	(ord. 1682; d. 1708)
	Thomas Symmes	(inst. 1708; d. 1725)
	Joseph Parsons	(ord. 1726; d. 1765)
	Samuel Williams	(ord. 1765; diss. 1780 to Hollis Professorship at Harvard; d. 1817)
	Jonathan Allen	(ord. 1781; d. 1827)

Ruling elders:	Sgt. John Boynton	(e. 1718; d. <u>ca.</u> 1740)
	Deacon Samuel Tenny	(e. 1718; d. <u>ca.</u> 1748)

Deacons:	David Hasseltine	(appointed to provide for the Lord's Supper 1682 until e. of deacons; m. as deacon 1749)
	Richard Hall	(appointed to provide for the Lord's Supper 1682 until e. of deacons; e. 1702; d. 1730)
	John Tenny	(e. 1702)
	John Bailey	(e. 1702; m. 1727)
	Lt. Samuel Tenny	(e. 1713; elev. to ruling elder 1718; d. <u>ca.</u> 1748)
	Sgt. Richard Bailey	(e. 1713)
	Capt. ----- Woodman	(e. 1728; m. 1736)
	Moses Day	(e. 1728)
	Joseph Hall	(e. 1730; m. 1744)
	Thomas Carleton	(e. 1742; m. 1765)
	David Walker	(e. 1745; m. 1771)
	Moses Day II	(e. 1751)
	Stephen Kimball	(e. 1754)
	Obadiah Kimball	(e. 1762; m. 1795)
	Thomas Kimball	(e. 1767; m. 1771)

Thomas Webster (e. 1782; m. 1791)  
 Richard Walker (e. 1797; d. 1807)  
 John Griffin (e. 1804)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I <sup>1</sup> "A Church Book [illegible] Bradford." 1682-1803, 1824.

VS I - "Bradford Church Records," EIHC, LVII (1921), 173-176. Admissions and dismissions, 1682-1779.

CR II - "Records of the first church of Christ in Bradford, Mass." 1824-1904.

PR I - "A Book of Records of the first Parish in Bradford 1787." 1787-1866.

PR II - "Records of Meetings, First Parish, Bradford." 1852-1915.

PROP I - "Proprietors of Bradford Meeting House." Records, 1833-1906.

Miscellaneous records: Church Standing Committee Records, 1895-1906; Parish Congregational Fund Trustees Records, 1804-1880; Parish Congregational Fund Trustees Accounts, 1804-1880.

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1. The tops of many pages of CR I have been damaged by fire and so are illegible; however, much of the information had already been copied, and is preserved in Articles of Faith and Covenant Adopted by the First Church of Christ in Bradford, Mass., with its Standing Rules and Practical Principles, a Catalogue of Its Officers and Members, from Its First Organization, in 1682, up to 1885, and an Appendix containing Facts in Its History (Haverhill, 1886).



HAWLEY, Charlemont, First (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 16, 1778 as the Church in Plantation No. 7; in 1792, the area became the town of Hawley and the church was duly renamed. In 1825, the town was divided into East and West Parishes, the former containing the 1778 church. The church is now located in the town of Charlemont.

Minister: Jonathan Grout (ord. 1793; d. 1835)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Bangs (e. 1793; d. 1809)  
Elijah Harmon (e. 1794; res. 1828)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1778-1833.

CR I COPY - Church Records, 1778-1781, 1793-1833. Described as being a copy made from "the Original Church records, which had become defaced, &c."

CR II - "Records of the first Congregational church in Hawley." 1835-1849.

CR III - "Records of the First Church in Hawley, commencing with the Settlement of Rev. Henry Seymour, Oct. 3, 1849." 1848-1890.

PR I - "Records of the first Parish in Hawley." 1824-1849. Inserted are some loose papers comprising church and parish memoranda, the former dating from 1809.

Miscellaneous records: Deacons' Record Book, 1778-1856 (with copies of church votes, 1837-1843); Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1825-1865.

HAWLEY, East Church (see Hawley, Charlemont, First).

HEAD OF THE RIVER, Society (see New Bedford).

HEATH, First (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Apr. 15, 1785 to replace the First Church of Charlemont.

By a redrawing of the town lines in 1785, the church properties were ceded to Heath, and (largely for purposes of removing the minister) the older church disbanded, and the Heath church created. The parish was also organized in 1785 as the Trinity Congregational Parish.

In 1892, the Heath church merged its identity with the other Protestant bodies of the town, organizing the Union Evangelical Church.

Ministers: Joseph Strong (ord. 1790; dism. 1803; d. 1823)  
Moses Miller (ord. 1804; dism. 1840; d. 1855)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Hugh Maxwell (e. 1790; d. 1799)  
John Brown (e. 1790; d. 1828)  
James White (e. 1799; d. 1824)

There are no records antedating 1804; the extant records are owned by the Union Evangelical Church, and deposited at the Town Hall.

CR I - "Common Place Book, 1805." Ministers' records, 1804-1857, largely vital statistics.

PR I - "Record Book of the First Parish, Heath, Mass. 1825-1892." Also includes Parish Assessors' records, 1825-1857.



Miscellaneous records: Records of "Shareholders in the New Meeting House," 1833-1840.

See Moses Miller, A Historical Discourse: Delivered by Rev. Moses Miller, Former Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Heath, at the Request of Said Church, October 13, 1852, with Some of the Accompanying Exercises (Shelburne Falls, 1853); Edward P. Guild (ed.), 1785-1885. Centennial Anniversary of the Town of Heath, Mass. August 19, 1885. Addresses, Speeches, Letters, Statistics, Etc., Etc. (Boston, 1885).

HERRING POND(S) Indian Church (see Bourne, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church).

HINGHAM, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Sept. 18, 1635, and the First Parish was organized in 1721. The building is frequently called "The Old Ship Church."

Ministers:	Peter Hobart	(ord. pastor 1635; d. 1678/79)
	Robert Peck	(ord. teacher 1638; rem. 1641; d. 1656)
	John Norton	(ord. 1678; d. 1716)
	Ebenezer Gay, D.D.	(ord. 1718; d. 1787)
	Henry Ware, D.D.	(ord. 1787; res. 1805 to become Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard; d. 1845)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Henry Smith	(e. and ord. 1640)
	Ralph Woodward	(e. and ord. 1640; d. 1663)

Thomas Loring	(d. 1661) <sup>1</sup>
Matthew Cushing	(d. 1660)
John Fearing	(d. 1665)
John Leavitt	(m. 1680; d. 1691)
John Smith	(m. 1681)
Peter Jacob	(m. 1723) <sup>2</sup>
Benjamin Lincoln	(d. 1727)
Joshua Hersey	(d. 1740)
Solomon Cushing	(m. 1744; d. 1769)
Thomas Andrews	(m. 1779; d. 1784)
Josiah Lincoln	(d. 1774) <sup>3</sup>
Joshua Hersey, Jr.	(d. 1784)
Joseph Thaxter	(e. 1769; res. 1800; d. 1808)
Benjamin Cushing	(e. 1769; res. 1800; d. 1812)
Benjamin Lincoln, Jr.	(e. 1769; m. 1805)
William Cushing	(e. 1800; m. 1807) <sup>4</sup>
David Lincoln, Jr.	(e. 1800; m. 1807) <sup>4</sup>

The records are owned by the church and deposited with the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston. Each of the total of forty-nine books and boxes held by the Society has been assigned an Arabic numeral by church officials, and this is given in parentheses, following the

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1. Loring died at Hull. See Peter Hobart's Diary, in The Diary of William Bentley, D.D., Pastor of the East Church, Salem, Massachusetts (Gloucester, 1962), III, pp. 282-286.

2. Not to be confused with his son, Peter Jacob, a South Hingham deacon.

3. The Deacon John (or Joseph) Loring who died at Hingham in 1775 was an officer of another church, possibly Hull.

4. The widows of two otherwise unidentified deacons are mentioned in this church's bills of mortality: Lucretia, widow of Deacon Peter Hobart, died in 1807; Molly, widow of Deacon Ebenezer Cushing, died in 1810. The men may have been members of the Hingham diaconate. Two other Hingham deacons whose dates of election are unknown are John Jacob (m. 1813) and Isaac Cushing (d. 1815).



code designation, in the case of each item cited below. It should be noted that VS I (10) contains some Cohasset records, and VS II COPY (8) some statistics of the Second Parish in Hingham.

Not listed below, but worthy of note (and quoted in the thesis) is Peter Hobart's Diary, contained in The Diary of William Bentley, D.D., Pastor of the East Church, Salem, Massachusetts (Gloucester, 1962), III, 282-286.

VS I (10) - (Binding) "Rev. Peter Hobart record - Rev. Henry Ware record." (Cover) "Copy of Early Ministers Records by Mr. Marble. May be examined today." Contents of the volume: Peter Hobart's Journal:<sup>1</sup> baptisms, marriages, deaths 1635-1745 (having been continued by Hobart's son, and after 1700 comprised largely of Hobart genealogical materials); Henry Ware's records 1787-1805 of baptisms, marriages, deaths (arranged by families); Nehemiah Hobart's records of the Cohasset church 1721-1747;<sup>2</sup> miscellaneous entries regarding the town of Hingham.

VS II (8) - "Vital Records. 1717-1786. (Gay Pastorate)." Marriages, 1718-1787; deaths of Negroes, 1743-1787; deaths of clergymen, 1766-1769; adult baptisms, 1743-1787; miscellaneous votes; adult baptisms, 1718-1742; infant baptisms, 1718-1787; admissions, 1718-1786; deaths, 1718-1787.

VS II COPY (8) - "Vital Records. 1717-1786. (Gay Pastorate). Copy." Mid-nineteenth century copy, rearranged with additions. Baptisms, 1718-1806; marriages, 1718-1805; deaths, 1718-1806; adult baptisms, 1718-1769; marriages performed by Justices of the Peace, 1781-1813; town records of births, 1742-1758; marriages in Hingham's Second Parish, 1757-1835, and elsewhere.<sup>3</sup>

VS III (8) - "Copy of Original Record Kept by Rev. E. Gay with Additional Entries to 1826." Selective copy: baptisms, 1718-1806; marriages, 1718-1805; deaths, 1718-1825.

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1. Location of the Journal original unknown. A MS copy is owned and held by the New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Boston.

2. See COHASSET, First Parish Church, CR I.

3. See HINGHAM, Second Parish, CR I.



VS IV (8) - "Vital Records. 1787-1805." Scattered church votes; vital statistics: baptisms, deaths, marriages and "other events" (largely admissions).

VS V (8) - "Church Membership, 1718-1900, Copy, & Vital Records, 1787-1795."

CR I (8) - "Record of Proceedings. 1803-1854." Church records, 1805-1854; vital statistics: "church records" (largely dismissals), 1805-1828; admissions, 1789-1865.

VS VI (10) - (Binding) "Records." (Flyleaf: "Vital Records 1806-1871.") Scattered church votes; vital statistics: marriages, deaths, admissions, baptisms.

VS VI COPY (10) - (Binding) "Richardson's Records 1806-1862." (Flyleaf: "Records, 1805-1861 Copy.")

VS VI MORT (11) - "Death Register." 1807-1861, alphabetized.

VS VI MISC (16) - "Scrap Book." Miscellaneous vital statistics, 1843-1845.

Miscellaneous church records: Church Treasurer's Accounts (11), 1863-1909.

PR I (8) - "The Records of the first Precinct in Hingham [illegible] 1720." 1720/21-1806.

PR II (10) - "Records of the First Parish in Hingham. 1805-1897."

PR II DUP (9) - Duplicate Parish Minutes, 1810-1898.

PR III (43) - "Records, First Parish in Hingham." 1898-1958.

Miscellaneous parish records: Parish Assessors' Tax and Evaluation lists survive in such profusion (and duplication) that they must be cited by collections assembled and given an Arabic numeral and box title (see above):

(17) - "Tax and Valuation Lists 1784-1812." 1784, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812. Two for each year except 1784 and 1805.



(29) - "Parish Valuation 1813-1840." Individual books for each year; two books for 1831, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1840; three books for 1839.

(30) - "Parish Valuation 1841-1866." Individual books for each year including 1867; two books for 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1848.

(31) - "Parish Valuation 1867-1886." Individual books for each year except 1869; two books for 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881.

(32) - "Parish tax, 1815-1819 List books, 1823-1837." Individual books for every year except 1820, 1821, 1822; two books for 1818, 1819, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837.

(33) - "List books, 1838-1860 (1859-1860 missing)." Book for 1838-1844 (two copies). Individual books 1845-1863 for every year except 1859 and 1860.

(34) - "Tax lists, 1820-1867 (bound copies) . . . ." Three consecutive volumes, 1820-1833, 1834-1856, 1857-1867.

(41) - Volume entitled "First Parish Hingham. 1868." Valuation and tax lists, 1868-1874.

(42) - Volume entitled "Valuation & Tax List First Parish Hingham." Valuation and tax lists, 1875-1884.

(36) - "Assessors Record 1718-1816. Property of the First Parish, Hingham." Assessors' orders to Precinct Treasurer, 1717/18-1817.

Miscellaneous parish records (continued): the several types of Parish Treasurer's Accounts must be similarly cited:

(11) - "1st Parish in Hingham's Account Book." 1778-1811.

(4) - "Property of the First Parish in Hingham." 1811-1866.

(36) - "The Property of the First Parish in Hingham, 1817." 1817-1879.

(36) - (Binding) "Journal." (Cover) "Property of the First Parish, Hingham. 1879." 1879-1887.

(36) - "Church [sic] Treasurer's Record." 1887-1888.

(36) - "Church [sic] Treasurer's Record." 1888-1889.

Miscellaneous parish records (concluded): Pew Deeds (13), 1869-1896; Parish Committee Records (44), 1887-1900; Records describing valuation of Real Estate (35), 1814-1815, 1824 ?, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831-1832 (two copies), 1833-1835 (two copies), 1836-1839 (two copies), 1840-1844 (two copies), 1845-1848, 1849-1852, 1853-1857, 1858-1863, 1864-1868 (two copies); "James Hawke's Acct Book, 1679-1684," record of monies subscribed for the building of the "Old Meeting House," 1680.

#### HINGHAM, Second Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Nov. 20, 1746 as the Church in the Third Parish of Hingham, the parish having been set off the previous year. When the Second Parish became the town of Cohasset in 1770, the Third Parish became the Second in Hingham, and the designation of the church was accordingly changed. It is sometimes called the Church in South Hingham.

Ministers: Daniel Shute, D.D. (ord. 1746; d. 1802)  
 Nicholas B. Whitney (ord. 1800; disp. 1833;  
 d. 1835)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Theophilis Cushing (e. 1747; res. 1775; d. 1778)  
 Peter Jacob, Jr. (e. 1747; d. ca. 1770)  
 Edward Ward (e. ca. 1770; res. 1775)  
 Pyam Cushing (e. 1775; d. 1776 ?)  
 Peter Hobart (e. 1775; d. 1798)  
 Elisha Cushing (e. 1779; d. 1786)  
 Robert Cushing (e. 1794; d. 1825)  
 John Jacob, Jr. (e. 1794; d. 1847)



The records are owned by the church; the church records are held by the church, the parish records are deposited with the Hingham Historical Society.

CR I - "Church Membership Records, 1746-1844." Church records.

CR II - "Ministers' Book of Records, 1800-1871."

PR I - "Parish Clerk: First Book of Records of So. Hingham Church, June 22, 1742 - Aug. 7, 1865."

PR II - "Records, Second Parish, Hingham." 1865-1953.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1781-1866; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1838-1899; Parish Warrants, bound volumes, 1800-1842, 1843-1875, 1876-1899.

HINGHAM, Second Church and Parish (see Cohasset).

HINGHAM, Third Church and Parish (see Hingham, Second).

HINSDALE (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 17, 1795 as the Church in the West Parish of Partridgefield, the parish having been incorporated six months earlier. When the area became the town of Hinsdale in 1804, the church and parish became the First of the town. The First Congregational Society succeeded the parish in 1834, but was dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1911.

Minister: Caleb Knight (ord. 1802; dism. 1816; d. 1854)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Richard Starr (e. 1796; d. 1805)  
 Elijah H. Goodwich (e. 1802; d. 1826)  
 Nehemiah Frost (e. 1803; rem. 1806)<sup>1</sup>

The records are owned by the church and deposited at the local library.

CR I - "A Book of Records." 1795-1841.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in Hinsdale, Mass. Vol. 2d. 1841." 1841-1852.

VS I - James Hosmer, "Baptismal Records of the Congregational Church of Hinsdale, Mass., to the Year 1850," NEHGR, LVII (1903), 288-296, 357-361. 1747-1849.

CR III - "Records of the Congl Ch, Hinsdale, Mass. Vol. 3rd, 1852." 1852-1887.

SR I - Society Records, 1833-1880.

SR II - "Record Book of the Congregational Society." 1881-1911.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1834-1895.

#### HOLDEN (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 22, 1742, the town having been formed in 1741 from the North Precinct in Worcester. The church was incorporated in 1888.

Ministers: Joseph Davis (ord. 1742; dism. 1773; d. 1799)  
 Joseph Avery (ord. 1774; res. 1822; d. 1824)

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1. The Deacon Rufus Marsh mentioned in 1801 was apparently an officer of another church.



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: William Nichols (e. 1743; dism. 1770)  
 Samuel Pierce (e. 1743; d. 1767)  
 Joseph Hubbard (e. 1755)  
 David Fisk (e. 1762; d. 1792)  
 Noah Haven (e. 1783)  
 Israel Davis (e. 1793)  
 Elisha Hubbard (e. 1793)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "The Book of Church Records for Holden." 1742-1821. Volume damaged by fire, but legible.

VS I - Franklin P. Rice, "Baptisms from the Records of the First Church of Holden, Mass., 1743-1822, the Births Not Being on Town Records," NEHGR, LVIII (1904), 274-280, 371-377.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1821-1869.

CR III - Church Records, 1869-1931.

#### HOLLAND (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 13, 1765 as the Church in South Brimfield, and the following year the East Parish in the District of South Brimfield was incorporated. The area became the town of Holland in 1783, and the names of church and parish were duly changed. The parish was succeeded by the Orthodox Congregational Society in 1864, and the church's name changed to the Evangelical Trinitarian Congregational Church.

Minister: Ezra Reeve(s) (inst. 1765; d. 1818)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Moses Lyon (e. 1768)  
 Humphrey Crowe (e. 1768)  
 James Frizell (e. 1779)  
 S. Ballard (e. 1787)  
 David Wallis (e. 1794)

The only records surviving a disastrous fire of some years ago were the records of the Sabbath School and two women's organizations, all dating from the latter half of the nineteenth century. See Jason Moore, Annals of the Church in Brimfield (Springfield, 1856).

# HOLLISTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 31, 1728, and incorporated in 1894. The Trustees of the Eames Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1829, and the First Parish organized in 1836.

Ministers:	James Stone	(ord. 1728; d. 1742)
	Joshua Prentiss	(ord. 1743; cta. 1784; d. 1788)
	Timothy Dickinson	(ord. 1789; d. 1813)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Thomas Marshall	(e. 1728; d. 1766)
	Timothy Leland <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1728; d. 1748)
	Joseph Brown	(e. 1748; d. 1791)
	James Russell	(e. 1748; d. 1777)
	Aaron Phipps	(e. 1766; d. 1792)
	Jesse Haven	(e. 1789; d. 1813)
	Esek Marsh	(e. 1793; d. 1835)

The records are owned and held by the church. Not listed below, but containing some references to church affairs, is Timothy A. Dickinson, "Biographical Sketch and Extracts from the Journal of Rev. Timothy Dickinson," WSAP, VI (1883), 60-89.

CR I - "Church Records for Holliston, Anno Domini 1728." Scattered church votes, 1728, 1747-1756, 1786-1789; vital statistics, 1728-1789.

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1. Sometimes given as "Lealand" or "Layland."



CR II - "The second book of Church Records in Holliston. Begun in the year 1789." 1789-1836.

CR III - "Church Records of the Congregational Church of Christ in Holliston, Mass. commencing with the doings of the Church in the settlement of The Seventh Pastor in Anno Domini 1836." 1836-1848.

CR IV - "Church Records from 1848: Holliston, Mass." (Flyleaf: "Church Records of the first Congregational Church in Holliston, Mass. commenced in 1838.") 1848-1893.

CR V - "Records: Congregational Church, Holliston, Mass. Jan 1, 1894 to May 22, 1913."

PR I - Parish Records, 1836-1867.

PR II - Parish Records, 1867-1894.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1831-1864; Church and Society Cash and Subscription Records, 1861-1888; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1830-1890.

#### HOLYOKE, First (C).

In 1750, what is now Holyoke and Chicopee had been constituted as the Fifth Parish of Springfield. With the setting off of Chicopee as Springfield's Second Parish in 1752, and the division of Springfield itself into Springfield and West Springfield in 1774, by 1786 the Holyoke area had become the Third (Ireland) Parish of West Springfield.

The Congregational Church in Ireland Parish (sometimes called the Third Church in West Springfield) was gathered on Dec. 4, 1799; however, the presence of a number of Baptist families in the parish made the settlement of a minister impossible. In 1803 the Baptists withdrew to gather their own church, making their meetinghouse available to the Congregationalists and eventually ceding it to them when a new building for the Baptist church was erected in 1827.

Until 1834, the Congregationalists had no settled minister, being supplied by preachers provided by the state and county Home Missionary societies.

The church was incorporated in 1943, and the society merged with it in 1950. In 1962, the church merged with a local Evangelical and Reformed church, to form the First United Church of Christ in Springfield.

Ministers: Supplies to 1834.

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Rogers (e. 1799; d. 1803)  
Amos Allen (e. 1799; d. 1825)

The original early records of the church have long been lost or destroyed; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Resumé of History, 1st Church -- 1799-1888." With some vital statistics.

CR II - "Records of the First Cong.<sup>1</sup> Church, Holyoke, Mass." 1888-1913.

#### HOPKINTON (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 2, 1724, and incorporated on May 20, 1895. The First Parish was organized in 1827. The church was incorporated in 1895, and reincorporated in 1928.

Ministers: Samuel Barrett, Jr. (ord. 1724; d. 1772)  
Elijah Fitch (ord. 1772; d. 1788)  
Nathaniel Howe (ord. 1791; dism. 1808; d. 1837)

Ruling elders: Deacon Joseph Bixby (e. 1731; ord. 1732; cta. ca. 1737)  
Deacon Joseph Haven (e. 1731; ord. 1732; cta. ca. 1737)



Deacons:	Benjamin Burnap, Sr.	(e. 1725; ord. 1732)
	Joseph Haven	(e. 1725; elev. to ruling elder 1731; cta. <u>ca.</u> 1737)
	Joseph Bixby	(e. 1730; elev. to ruling elder 1731; cta. <u>ca.</u> 1737)
	Henry Mellens <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1731; ord. 1732; m. 1755)
	Ebenezer Kimble	(e. 1738)
	Benjamin Burnap, Jr.	(e. 1749; m. 1755)
	Jason Walker	(e. 1768; m. 1780)
	Moses Haven	(e. 1768; d. 1808)
	Stephen Kinsman	(e. 1786; rem. 1793; d. 1801)
	Joseph Walker	(e. 1793; d. 1813)
	Abel Fiske	(e. 1803; d. 1823)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records - Hopkinton." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Records wherin the transactions of the Church are recorded.") 1724-1791.

CR I COPY - "Barrett. Odlin. Toppan. Hopkinton, Mass." Copy made in 1881 by Paul Nason.

CR II - "The second Book of the Records of the Church of Christ in Hopkinton - Beginning at the Ordination of Revd. Nathaniel Howe - Octr. 5th 1791." 1791-1838.

CR I & II COPY - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Hopkinton - 1724-1791. Volume I. Pages 1-117. 1791-1838. Volume II. Pages 121-283." Notarized copy.

CR III - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Hopkinton, Mass. 1838." 1838-1880.

CR IV - "Records - First Cong'l Church - Hopkinton, Mass. 1881." 1881-1911, with vital statistics to 1923.

PR I - Parish Records, 1827-1858.

PR II - "Records." 1859-1895.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1827-1858, 1858-1890; Pew Rents, 1847-1857; Ministerial Fund

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1. Sometimes given as "Mellen," "Millen," or "Millens."

Accounts, 1836-1859. Only cursory examination was permitted, but it appears that most or all of the Parish Assessors' Rate Books are extant, together with the records of church officers and committees.

HOUSATONIC Indian Church (see Stockbridge, Housatonic Indian Church and First Congregational Church).

HUBBARDSTON, First Parish (U).  
Evangelical Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered on Feb. 14, 1770; its parish was organized soon afterward. Following the withdrawal of the orthodox in 1827, the church took the title of First Congregational Church. The First Congregational Society was organized in 1828, and incorporated in 1833. Orthodox seceders gathered the Evangelical Congregational Church in 1827; this church also claims the 1770 founding date.

Ministers:	Nehemiah Parker	(ord. 1770; dism. 1800; d. 1801)
	David Kendall	(ord. 1802; dism. 1809; d. 1853)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Eveleth	(e. 1771; dism. 1788)
	Adam Wheeler	(e. 1771; dism. 1788)
	Elisha Woodward	(e. 1778; d. 1810)
	Ebenezer Rice	(e. 1787)
	Ephraim Allen	(e. 1796; res. 1818)
	Otis Parker	(e. 1805; withdrew with ortho- dox 1827; deacon in that church, res. 1840)



The one extant volume of church records contains a synopsis of Hubbardston's church history by Abner D. Jones, Unitarian minister from 1828 to 1832. Jones remarked the lack of early church records, as well as the fact that the seceding orthodox carried any fragmentary records with them. These last, however, were eventually returned to the Unitarians and copied into the present book.

CR I - "Church Records." Largely vital statistics, many lacunae, 1770-1959.

See The Articles of Faith and Covenant of the Calvinistic Congregational Church in Hubbardston, with a Catalogue of Members. September, 1843 (New York, 1843).

HULL (C), extinct.

It does not appear that a church was gathered here until Sept. 13, 1670, although some authorities have argued that such an event took place in 1644.<sup>1</sup> Apparently Marmaduke Matthews was "settled" here from 1644 to 1649, but the formal organization of the church was deferred. The last male member of the church of 1670 died ca. 1789.

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1. BOSTON, DORCHESTER, CR PUB, p. 63: "The 11 (7) 70 [Sept. 11, 1670] ther was a letter read to y<sup>e</sup> Church wch Came from Hull expressing ther intent to enter into Church state & ordaining (the Revd mr Whitman &) some officer or officers besides as also ther desier that or Church would send some messengers to assigt & hold out y<sup>e</sup> right hand of ffellowship unto them y<sup>e</sup> day appointed is y<sup>e</sup> 13th this Instant . . . ." "The 18 7 70 after y<sup>e</sup> Evening exerciz y<sup>e</sup> Elder declared to y<sup>e</sup> Church y<sup>e</sup> return of ther messadg to Hull Viz that ther was a Church gathered & a teaching officer & a rulling elder ordained & eleven p'sons in all entered into Covenant at that time."

Joseph S. Clark, A Historical Sketch of the Congregational Church in Massachusetts, from 1620 to 1858 (Boston, 1858), p. 33, quotes Savage as assuming the church was gathered in 1644.



Ministers:	Zechariah Whitman	(ord. 1670; d. 1726)
	Ezra Carpenter	(ord. 1725; dism. 1746; d. 1785)
	Samuel Veazie	(inst. 1753; res. 1767; d. 1797)
	Solomon Prentice	(inst. 1768; rem. 1772; d. 1773)
	Elhanan Winchester, Jr.	(inst. 1773; rem. 1773; d. 1797)

Ruling elders: the identity of the elder ordained in 1670 is unknown, nor is it possible to discover if the church employed more than one of these officers during its career.<sup>1</sup>

Deacons:	Benjamin Loring	(m. 1725)
	John Binney	(e. 1734; d. 1759)
	John Loring	(e. 1734; d. 1758)
	James Loring	(e. 1759; suspended 1767; restored 1768)
	Jonathan Collier	(e. 1759; dism. 1772)

The copyist of the extant records reported in 1847 that the records antedating 1725 had been destroyed by fire.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1725-1767.

CR I COPY - "Hull Church Records." 1725-1746, 1753-1767. Copy made in 1847. Owned and held by the New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Boston.

#### HUNTINGTON, First (C).

In 1773 the eastern part of the now-extinct town of Murrayfield was set off as the town of Norwich. With the coming of the railroad, the area near the station was called "Chester Village" to distinguish it from "Chester Factories" (now the town of Chester).

The Congregational Church of Norwich was gathered in July of 1778 at what later became known as "Chester Village" (or "Falley's Crossroads"). The First Parish was organized in 1832.

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1. See BOSTON, Dorchester, First, CR PUB, 63.



The name of the town (and consequently of the church and parish) was changed to Huntington in 1855. The church, which was incorporated in 1917, styles itself "The Church on Norwich Hill."

Ministers: Stephen Tracy (inst. 1781; dism. 1799; d. 1822)  
 Benjamin B. Woodbridge (ord. 1799; dism. 1831; d. 1844)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Kirkland (e. ca. 1778)  
 Jonathan Ware (e. ca. 1778)  
 Artemas Knight (rem. 1835)

There are no extant records antedating 1832, according to the memorandum given in CR I, p. 3. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1832-1854. Contains notices of personnel, 1778-1832.

CR II - Church Records, 1854-1931.

SR I - Society Records, 1832-1842.

SR II - Society Records, 1842-1865.

PR III - Parish Records, 1866-1917.

HUNTSTOWN, Church (see Ashfield).

## IPSWICH, First and South (C).

The First Church was gathered, in June of 1634, and the First Parish was organized in 1724.<sup>1</sup> The present church takes its name from its merger early in this present century with the South Church of Ipswich, for which a separate entry is made below.

Ministers:	Thomas Parker	(ord. pastor 1634; rem. 1635; d. 1677)
	Nathaniel Ward	(ord. teacher 1634; cta. 1637; rem. 1646; d. 1653)
	John Norton	(ord. teacher 1638; rem. 1653; d. 1663)
	Nathaniel Rogers	(ord. 1638; d. 1655)
	Thomas Cobbett	(sett. 1655; d. 1685)
	William Hubbard	(ord. teacher 1658; d. 1704)
	John Rogers	(ord. 1656; rem. to presidency of Harvard College 1681; d. 1684)
	John Denison	(ord. 1686; d. 1689)
	John Rogers, Jr.	(ord. 1692; d. 1745)
	Jabez Fitch	(ord. 1703; dism. 1723; d. 1746)
	Nathaniel Rogers	(ord. 1727; d. 1775)
	Timothy Symmes	(sett. 1752; d. 1756)
	Levi Frisbie	(ord. 1776; d. 1806)

Ruling elders: the church elected two ruling elders in 1657, but their names have not survived, nor any knowledge as to

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1. As a point of clarification, the several Ipswich churches were gathered in the following order: the First in 1634; the Second (now Essex First) in 1681; the Third (now Hamilton First) in 1714; the Fourth (extinct by merger with Essex First) in 1746; the South Church in 1747; and the Linebrook Church in 1749.



whether the church continued to employ such officers.<sup>1</sup>

Deacons:<sup>2</sup> the names prior to 1746 are found in the town records.

John Shatswell	(arrived Ipswich 1634)
William Goodhue	(arrived Ipswich 1637; e. before 1658)
Joseph Goodhue	(d. 1697)
----- Whipple	(m. 1651)
Moses Pingry	(m. 1660-1683)
Thomas Knowlton	(m. 1667-1678)
----- Jewett	(m. 1677)
Robert Lord	(m. 1682)
Thomas Low	(m. 1696)
Jacob Foster	(m. 1697-1709)
Nathaniel Knowlton	(m. 1700-1723)
----- Abbot	(m. 1710-1715)
John Staniford	(m. 1721-1746)
Thomas Norton	(m. 1727-1737)
Jonathan Fellows	(m. 1727-1736)
Aaron Potter	(m. 1737-1746)
Daniel Hurd	(m. 1746)
Mark Haskell	(m. 1746)
Samuel Williams	(m. 1746)
Joseph Low	(e. 1763; d. 1782)
Jeremiah Perkins	(e. 1763; d. 1790)
John Crocker	(e. 1781; res. 1790; d. 1806)
William Story, Jr.	(e. 1781; res. 1788)

1. Samuel Jennison (ed.), "The Diaries of John Hull, Mint-master and Treasurer of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay," AASTC, III (1857), 185-186: "Nov. 17. [1657] Mr. William Hubert was ordained a teacher to the church at Ipswich, where he was brought up under Mr. John Norton, the Lord thereby making a complete supply to that church; before he supplies the death of Mr. Rogers by Mr. Cobbitt in the pastoral office; and now the other; and also added two ruling elders, which they never had before, to make up their want of Mr. Norton, of whom the church at Boston stood in so much need. The Lord of the harvest will not let any lose by the help they spare to him."

2. See David T. Kimball, A Sketch of the Ecclesiastical History of Ipswich. The Substance of A Discourse, in Two Parts, Delivered in That Town, December 1820 (Haverhill, 1823).



Aaron Perkins	(e. 1788; d. 1801)
Caleb Lord	(e. 1790; d. 1804)
Thomas Knowlton	(e. 1801)
Mark Haskell	(e. 1804)

There are no records antedating 1739; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited with a local bank, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Records, First Church, Ipswich. 1739-1805. Also a copy of more ancient records, taken from the book of records belonging to the feofees of the Grammar School in Ipswich -- Also a copy of the records of the First Church in Boston, respecting the ordination and the death &c. of Mr. John Norton, who had previously been a pastor of the First Church in Ipswich."

VS I - "Ipswich Church Records," EIHC, LVIII (1922), 23-24. Admissions and dismissions, 1750-1800.

CR II - "Records, First Church, Ipswich. Oct. 1806 to Dec. 1829."

CR IIA - "Records of the First Church Ipswich . . . 1806-1829." Ministerial record, paralleling CR II, with additional vital statistics to 1851.

CR III - "Records of the First Church of Christ in Ipswich." 1830-1875.

PR I - "First Parish, Ipswich: Legal Meetings." 1724-1755.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1756-1830.

PR III - "Book of Records of the first Parish in Ipswich, AD. 1830 to 1856."

PR IV - "Records of the First Parish, Ipswich. 1857 to 1914."

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1801-1832; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1795-1861 (owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem), 1822-1891.



IPSWICH, South (C), merged.

The church was gathered on July 22, 1747 by Old Light seceders from Ipswich's First Church, and the South Parish was organized in the same year. Early in the present century this church merged with the parent body under the name First and South Congregational Church.

Ministers: John Walley (ord. 1747; dism. 1764;  
d. 1784)  
Joseph Dana, D.D. (ord. 1765; d. 1827)

Ruling elders: Deacon Aaron Foster (e. 1747; d. 1776)  
Thomas Norton (e. 1747)<sup>1</sup>

Deacons: Aaron Foster (e. 1747; elev. to ruling  
elder 1747; d. 1776)  
Joseph Appleton (e. 1747; res. 1766; d. 1783)  
James Foster (e. 1766; res. 1796; d. 1807)  
Nathan Kimball (e. 1776; res. 1810)  
John Crocker, Jr. (e. 1796)  
Francis Merrifield (e. 1796-1800; d. 1814)

The records are owned by the First and South Congregational Church and deposited with a local bank.

CR I - "South Church, Ipswich. 1747 to 1848." Excellent coverage 1747-1764; thereafter, largely vital statistics.

VS I - "Ipswich Church Records," EIHC, LVIII (1922), 23-24, 233. Admissions and dismissions, 1747-1773.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1848-1872.

CR III - "Vol. II. Records. So. Church, Ipswich." 1872-1916.

PR I - "The South Parish in Ipswich, their Book of Records Began 1747." 1747-1851.

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1. The church insisted upon electing ruling elders; however, Norton drops from sight in the records immediately following his election, and Foster is styled "deacon" until his death in 1776.

PR II - "South Parish Records, 1852-1922."

Miscellaneous records: Parish Constables' and Collector's Records, 1740-1794; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1749-1795.

IPSWICH, Linebrook (C), inactive.

The church was gathered on Nov. 15, 1749 as the Church in Linebrook Parish of Ipswich and Rowley, the parish having been organized in 1745 and incorporated in 1746.

Ministers:	George Lesslie	(ord. 1749; disp. 1779; d. 1800)
	Gilbert T. Williams	(ord. 1789; disp. 1813; d. 1824)

Ruling elders:	James Davis	(e. 1749; d. 1752)
	George Hibbert	(e. 1749; d. 1750 without having accepted)
	Amos Jewett	(e. 1757; rem. 1789; m. 1790) <sup>1</sup>
	Abraham Howe	(e. 1787) <sup>2</sup>

Deacons:	John Abbot	(e. 1749; d. 1759)
	Jonathan Burpee	(e. 1749; rem. 1764)
	Lt. Mark Howe	(e. 1760, refused; re-e. and accepted; d. 1770)
	Moses Chaplin	(e. 1765; d. 1811)
	Anthony Potter	(e. 1771; d. 1791) <sup>3</sup>
	Abraham Howe	(e. 1792; d. 1797) <sup>3</sup>

The records are owned by the church and deposited with a local bank.

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1. Jeremiah Burpee, elected a ruling elder in 1757, probably refused the office.

2. An Abraham Howe was elected a deacon in 1792. Either there were two men bearing this name, or (as seems more likely) the ruling eldership fell into disuse, and Elder Howe was given diaconal standing.

3. Another source reports an Abraham Howe removing from Linebrook in 1809.



CR I - "Linebrook Church Clerk's Record. Book. No. 1.  
1749 to 1830."

CR II - "Linebrook Church Clerk's Record. Book No. 2.  
1824 to 1910."

PR I - "Linebrook Parish Clerk's Record. Book No. 1.  
1746 to 1801."

PR II - "Linebrook Parish Clerk's Record. Book No. 2.  
1802 to 1894."

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1886-  
1925; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1870-1926.

IPSWICH, Fourth Church (see Essex, Second).

IPSWICH, Second Church and Parish (see Essex, First).

IPSWICH, Sixth Parish (see Essex, Second).

IPSWICH, South Church (see Ipswich, First).

IPSWICH, Third Church (see Hamilton).

IPSWICH AND ROWLEY, Church in Linebrook Parish (see Ipswich, Linebrook).

IPSWICH CANADA (see Winchendon).

IPSWICH HAMLET, Church and Parish (see Hamilton).

IRELAND PARISH (see Holyoke).

JAMAICA PLAIN (see Boston, Jamaica Plain).

JONES RIVER Precinct or Parish (see Kingston).



KEHTEHTICUT Indian Church (see Middleboro, Titicut Indian Church).

KINGSTON, First Congregational Parish (U).

The church was gathered in 1720 as the Church in the North or Jones River Precinct of Plymouth, the precinct having been established in 1717. The precinct became the town of Kingston in 1726, and the church eventually designated as the First Church.

The Trustees of funds appropriated to the support of a Minister of the Congregational Denomination in the Town of Kingston were incorporated in 1802; the First Parish was organized in 1828.

Ministers:	Joseph Stacey	(ord. 1720; d. 1741)
	Thaddeus Maccarty	(ord. 1742; dism. 1745; d. 1784)
	William Rand	(inst. 1746; d. 1779)
	Zephaniah Willis	(ord. 1780; dism. 1828; d. 1847)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Washburn	(e. 1721; m. 1741)
	Wrestling Brewster	(m. 1741; d. 1767)
	Ebenezer Washburn	(m. 1774-1799)
	Peter West	(e. 1782; d. 1786)
	Nicholas Davis, Jr.	(e. 1786; d. 1798)
	Martin Paris <sup>1</sup>	
	Jedidiah Holmes, Jr.	
	George Russell	(d. 1822)
	Jabez Washburn	(d. 1794)

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1. No dates are given for Paris, but it is known that he served as a Kingston deacon, removed to Plymouth, and then returned to Kingston where he agreed to resume his service in the diaconate.

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1720-1784.

CR I COPY & II - "This Book is the Property of the Church of Christ in Kingston." Copy of CR I, 1720-1784; original church records, 1784-1830; vital statistics to 1851.

CR III - "Records of The First Church in Kingston." 1828-1961.

CR I COPY & II, III WPA - "Church Records, 1720-1880." MS copy of CR I COPY & II, and parts of CR III and PR I. Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

PR I - "First Parish Records. Book I. 1828-1864." 1828-1879.

PR II - "Records: First Cong. Parish, Kingston." 1880-1961.

LAKENHAM (see Carver).

LAKEVILLE, Assawampsett Indian Church (C), extinct.

The history of the church is identical with that of the Lakeville Nemasket Indian Church.

Ministers: the personnel is identical, except that Stephen is not mentioned in connection with Assawampsett, and that an Indian preacher named Jocelyn is mentioned here, from 1698 to 1711.



LAKEVILLE, Nemasket Indian Church (C), extinct.

The church was gathered ca. 1665 in a part of Middleboro<sup>1</sup> now lying within the boundaries of Lakeville. Early in the eighteenth century it was absorbed by the Middleboro Titicut Indian Church.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	John Cotton, Jr.	(Indian mission on the Vineyard 1664-1667; ord. Plymouth First 1669, also ministered to two dozen Indian praying towns and churches; rem. 1697; d. 1699)
	John Sassamon <sup>2</sup>	(Punkapoag Indian; served the English during Pequot War 1637; Harvard educated; schoolmaster at Natick; secretary to King Philip. Indian preacher here and at Lakeville [Assawompsett] and Middleboro [Titicut] 1673; d. 1675/76)
	Stephen	(Indian preacher here and at Middleboro [Titicut] <u>ca.</u> 1685)
	Samuel Danforth	(ord. Taunton 1687, associated with seven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1727)
	John (Hia)coomes	(son of Hiacoomes of Edgartown, may have briefly assisted Mo-matchegin at Chappaquiddick <u>ca.</u> 1690; Indian preacher at Quittaub [= Nemasket ?] and Lakeville [Assawompsett] 1698; d. <u>ca.</u> 1718)
	Peter Thacher	(ord. Middleboro 1709, associated with three Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1744)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

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1. It is therefore listed under Middleboro by Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 259.

2. Sometimes given as "Wassausmon."



## LAKEVILLE, Lakeville and Taunton Precinct (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 6, 1725 as the Church of the Middleborough and Taunton Precinct (and sometimes called the Second Church in Middleborough). The precinct had been incorporated in 1719, and became the town of Lakeville in 1853. However, the precinct nomenclature was retained when the Lakeville and Taunton Precinct Society was incorporated in 1875.

Ministers: Benjamin Ruggles (ord. 1725; dism. 1753;  
d. 1782)  
Caleb Turner (ord. 1761; d. 1803)  
Thomas Crafts (inst. 1801; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.<sup>1</sup>

Deacons: Edward Richmond (e. 1725; m. 1732)  
John Hackett (e. 1725; m. 1745)  
Nathaniel Macomber (m. 1759-1762)  
Edward Richmond, Jr. (m. 1759)  
John Atwood (m. 1761)  
Job Macomber (e. 1762)  
Seth Richmond (e. 1766)  
Joseph Richmond (e. 1766)  
George Leonard (e. 1792)  
Benjamin Dean (e. 1792; m. 1794)  
George Staples (e. 1799; m. 1805)  
Samuel Staples (e. 1803)  
John Morton (e. 1804)<sup>2</sup>

The church records antedating 1842 have disappeared, those for the first pastorate being reported lost or destroyed in

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1. The precinct records mention an Elder William Barney in 1759-1760, and an Elder Montgomery in 1762; however, it appears that these men were officers of the local Baptist church.

2. In the absence of church records, the listing is based on precinct records and on Historical Sketch, Confession of Faith, Covenant, Standing Rules, and Members, of the Congregational Church, in Middleborough and Taunton Precinct, Mass. (Boston, 1851).



1794,<sup>1</sup> and those for 1761-1842 having dropped from sight since 1851. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1725-1761 and 1761-1842.

CR II - "Records of the Second Congregational Church in Middleborough, Mass. or of Mid. & Taunton Precinct, Commencing Oct. 19, 1842." 1842-1955.

PR I - "Middleborough and Taunton Precinct Booke, 1719." 1719-1758.

PR II - "Middleborough and Taunton Precinct Book Bought at Boston May the 29, 1758 Price 5 Shillings." 1758-1800.

PR III - Precinct Records, 1800-1869.

PR IV - "Records of Middleborough & Taunton Precinct Society." Precinct/society records, 1870-1938.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1769-1870.

See Thomas Weston, History of the Town of Middleborough, Massachusetts (Boston and New York, 1906), pp. 417-438; Gladys DeM. Vigers, History of the Town of Lakeville, Massachusetts (n.p., 1952).

LAKEVILLE, Beech Woods Church (see Middleboro, Second Separate Congregational).

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1. Isaac Backus, "An Historical Account of Middleborough, in the County of Plymouth," MHSC, 1st Ser., III (1794, pub. 1810), 148-153.

LAMBSTOWN (see Hardwick, Federated).

LANCASTER, First Church (U).

The church was gathered in September of 1660. The First Congregational Society was dissolved ca. 1906 when the church was incorporated.

Ministers:	Joseph Rowlandson	(ord. 1660; rem. 1676; d. 1678)
	John Whiting	(ord. 1690; d. 1697)
	Andrew Gardner	(sett. 1701; d. 1704)
	John Prentice	(ord. 1708; d. 1748)
	Timothy Harrington	(inst. 1748; d. 1795)
	Nathaniel Thayer, S.T.D.	(ord. 1793; d. 1840)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early records, the name of only one seventeenth-century deacon is known.

Roger Sumner	(e. before 1676)
Capt. Peter Joslyn	(e. 1715; d. 1759)
Joseph Wilder, Esq.	(e. 1715; d. 1757)
Josiah White	(e. 1729; d. 1772)
James Wilder	(e. 1729; d. 1739)
Hooker Osgood, Jr.	(e. 1742; res. 1761; d. 1765)
Israel Houghton	(e. 1742; res. 1761; d. 1777)
Joshua Wilder, Jr.	(e. 1749; d. 1777)
Joshua Fairbank	(e. 1749; d. 1769)
Joseph White	(e. 1761; d. 1780)
David Wilder	(e. 1761; d. 1776)
Josiah Wilder, Esq.	(e. 1777; d. 1788)
Capt. Benjamin Houghton	(e. 1777; d. 1802)
Cyrus Fairbank	(e. 1777; d. 1801)
Josiah Ballard	(e. 1781; res. 1794; d. 1799)
John Whiting	(e. 1789; rem. 1808)



Joseph Wales (e. 1794; res. 1817)  
 Jonas Lane (e. 1801; res. 1838)  
 Joseph White (e. 1802; d. 1806)

There are no records antedating 1708; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited at the Town Hall.

CR I - "Lancaster Church Records, 1708-1793."

VS I - "Lancaster baptisms during the ministry of Rev. John Prentice." 1708-1734.

CR II - "Church Records." 1793-1846.

CR III - "Records. First Church, Lancaster." Largely vital statistics, 1847-1907; church votes, 1847-1857.

VS II - "Parish Register." Baptisms, admissions, marriages, deaths, 1847-1905.

VS III - "Record. Marriages." 1881-1905.

PR I - "Records of the First Precinct, Town of Lancaster." 1742-1781.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1781-1836.

PR III - "Records of the First Parish, Lancaster, 1836-1906."

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1761-1882; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1836-1876, 1877-1914; Parish Order Book, 1836-1878; Pew Deeds, 1796-1864, 1820-1951.

See Henry S. Nourse (ed.), The Birth, Marriage and Death Register, Church Records and Epitaphs of Lancaster, Massachusetts. 1643-1850 (Lancaster, 1890).

LANCASTER, Second Church and Precinct (see Sterling).

## LANESBORO, Federated Church.

The church was gathered on March 28, 1764 as the Church in New Framingham. The town was organized as Lanesboro the following year, and the name of the church was accordingly changed. The First Parish came into being in 1824. In 1918, the church federated with local Methodists, Baptists and other Protestants. It is currently unaffiliated, the Congregational element having severed connections with that denomination in 1958.

Minister: Daniel Collins (ord. 1764; d. 1822)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Azariah Rood	(rem. 1768)
	Nehemiah Bull	(e. 1780; d. 1815)
	Ebenezer Squier	(e. 1783; d. 1797)
	Andrew Squier	(e. 1798; d. 1824)
	Ebenezer Buck	(d. 1805)

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "The Records of the Church of Christ in New Framingham or Lanesborough, from the Settlement of the Church in that Town in the year of our Lord 1764, to 1890."

CR I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "The Records of the Church of Christ in New Framingham or Lanesborough, from the Settlement of the Church in that Town in the year of our Lord 1764." Copy made in 1899, owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR II - "The Records of the Congregational Church in Lanesboro from the year 1890." 1890-1953.

PR I - "Record of the doings of the first Congregational Parish in the Town of Lanesborough." 1824-1858.

PR/SR II - Parish/Society Records, 1859-1898.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1883-1953.



LEE (C).

The church was gathered on May 25, 1780, and the First Parish created in 1830. The parish was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1918.

Ministers: Elisha Parmelee (ord. 1783; d. 1784)  
Alvan Hyde (ord. 1792; d. 1833)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Oliver West (e. 1783; d. 1816)  
Jesse Bradley (e. 1783; d. 1812)  
Levi Nye (e. 1792; d. 1825)  
Edmund Hinckley (e. 1804; d. 1822)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the Lee Congregational Church, 1780-1833."

CR II - "Church Records: Clerk's Records from Dec. 1833 to Jan. 1, 1873."

CR III - "Records: Lee Cong'l Church." 1872-1910.

PR I - "This book contains the records of the First Congregational Parish from its organization Dec. 3d, 1830 to & including meeting June 5, 1889. Prior to 1889, it had been united with the Town."

SR II - "Records - Lee Cong'l. Society." 1890-1918.

Miscellaneous records: Parish/Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1841-1857, 1857-1918 (and Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1919-1944); Society Collector and Prudential Committee Records, 1840-1920 (and Church Business Committee Records, 1920-1952); Proprietors of the Meeting House Records, 1799-1801.

## LEICESTER, Federated (C).

The church was gathered in 1721, probably on Sept. 15. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1824, and the First Parish in 1833. The federation is of comparatively recent date.

Ministers:	David Parsons	(inst. 1721; dism. 1735; d. 1743)
	David Goddard	(ord. 1736; d. 1754)
	Joseph Roberts	(ord. 1754; dism. 1762; d. 1811)
	Benjamin Conklin	(ord. 1763; dism. 1794; d. 1798)
	Zephaniah S. Moore	(ord. 1798; dism. to lan- guage professorship at Dart- mouth 1811; e. president of Williams 1815; e. president of Amherst 1821; d. 1823)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early records, knowledge of the church's deacons is fragmentary.

James Southgate	(m. 1729)
Jonathan Witt	(m. before 1798)
John Whittemore	(m. before 1798)
Isaac Choate	(m. before 1798)
Solomon Parsons	
Joseph Eliot	(e. 1798)
Luther Robinson	(e. 1800)

The records of the church antedating 1798 were the object of a thorough but fruitless search in that year.<sup>1</sup> The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "First Congregational Church Record Book, No. 1. 1793 [sic] - 1857." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Congregational Church, in Leicester, Massachusetts.") 1798-1859.

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1. See CR I, p. 6, under date of Feb. 13, 1798.



CR II - "First Congregational Church, Record Book. No. 2. 1857-1909." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Congregational Church in Leicester.") 1857-1910.

PR I - "Records of the First Parish in Leicester, Mass. 1833-1888."

PR II - "Records." 1890-1948.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Register, 1850-1931.

See A. H. Coolidge, The Religious History of the First Congregational Church in Leicester. A Sermon. April 24, 1887. On the Sabbath after the Thirtieth Anniversary of His Installation as Pastor of the Church, April 21, 1857 (Worcester, 1887).

LEICESTER, Second Church and Precinct (see Spencer).

LENOX (C).

The church was gathered in 1769, and the Lenox Congregational Society organized in 1834 (to be dissolved in 1898).

Ministers: Samuel Munson (ord. 1770; dism. 1793; d. 1814)  
 Samuel Shepard, D.D. (ord. 1795; d. 1846)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Lemuel Collins (e. provisionally 1776)  
 Amos Stanley (e. provisionally 1776; e. 1785; res. 1795; re-e. 1795; res. 1809)  
 Elisha Coan (e. 1785)  
 John Stoughton (e. provisionally 1793; res. 1795)  
 Charles Mattoon (e. provisionally 1793; res. 1795; e. 1795; d. 1813)

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - Church Records, 1771-1846.

CR I COPY - "Records of Congregational Church, Lenox, Mass. 1771-1846." MS copy, made in 1894 by Robert C. Rockwell. Owned and held by the local public library.

VS I - Vital statistics, 1795-1846.

VS I COPY - "Records of the Congregational Church, Lenox, Mass." MS copy, made in 1894 by Robert C. Rockwell. Owned and held by the local public library.

VS I COPY ABSTRACT - Rollin H. Cooke, "Lenox Church Records from R. C. Rockwell's Copy." Abstract made in 1895, owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR II - "Records of the Congl. Church, Lenox, Mass., from 1846 to 1872."

CR III - "Records, Congregatl Church, Lenox, 1872." 1872-1939.

VS BAP - "Baptisms. Lenox. Congregational Church." 1771-1961.

SR I - "Congregational Society, Lenox. No. 1." 1834-1876.

SR II - "Record Book. Cong. Soc. Lenox." 1876-1898.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1805-1911, 1879-1913; Society Assessors' Rate Book, 1861-1878; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1835-1898 (with Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1898-1914).



## LEOMINSTER, First Congregational Society (U).

The church was gathered on Sept. 14, 1743, its parish being incorporated the same year.

A schism during the years 1758-1762 saw the creation of a church in the Second Precinct (see LEOMINSTER, Second Church). The schism ending in 1787, the First and Second Precincts were united as "one Parish."

Following the withdrawal of the orthodox, the Parish of the First Congregational Society was reorganized in 1835.

Ministers:	John Rogers	(ord. 1743; dism. 1758; sett. Leominster Second Church 1762-1787; d. 1789)
	Francis Gardner	(ord. 1762; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Jonathan White	(e. 1743; rem. to Leominster Second Church 1762)
	Gardner Wilder	(e. 1743; d. 1787)
	James Boutell	(e. 1747; d. 1752)
	Benjamin Whitcomb	(e. 1747; d. 1778)
	Jotham White	(e. 1763)
	Oliver Hoar	(e. 1767)
	Israel Nichols	(e. 1769; d. 1802)
	John Joslin, Jr.	(e. 1769; d. 1810)
	David Wilder	(e. 1775; res. 1810; d. 1815)
	Ephraim Carter	(e. 1775; res. 1814; d. 1817)
	Abijah Butler	(e. 1797; res. 1814; d. 1822)
	John Buss	(e. 1801; res. 1814; d. 1845)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "No. 1 A.D. 1743-1787." The records of the schism years (1762-1787) were cut out of the book before 1815.

CR II - "Leominster Church Records. No. 2. A.D. 1760-1813."

CR III - "The Book of Records . . . No. 3, A.D. 1813 to 1814." With vital statistics, 1786-1815.<sup>1</sup>

SR I - Society Records, 1835-1865.

SR II - Society Records, 1866-1892.

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1. Virtually all church records postdating 1815 have been lost.



LEOMINSTER, Second (C), extinct.

John Rogers was dismissed from the ministry of Leominster's First Church for unsound doctrine in 1758. Rogers entertained a suit against the town for four years, but agreed to settle differences at a mutual council in 1761.

On Jan. 21, 1762 the town voted Rogers and his followers permission to be a Second Precinct and to hold religious services. A further vote of the town in 1768 gave the church in the Second Precinct the right to hold services in "the school house on the north side of the River."

The Second Church and John Rogers' ministry came to a close at the same time; in 1787, the First and Second Precincts were united as "one Parish."

Minister: John Rogers (ord. Leominster First Church 1743; dism. 1758; sett. Second Church 1762-1787; d. 1789)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Jonathan White (e. Leominster First Church 1743; rem. to Second Church 1762)  
Simon Butler (e. 1765; demitted at the unification of the precincts 1787)

No records of this church are known to exist. Possibly they were destroyed by the same party who mutilated the earliest book of Leominster First Church records. See David Wilder, The History of Leominster or the Northern Half of the Lancaster New or Additional Grant (Fitchburg, 1853).

LEVERETT, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 10, 1774. The First Congregational Society was organized in 1861, and dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1898.

Minister: Henry Williams (ord. 1784; d. 1811)



Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early records, only one church lay officer is known, viz., Deacon Jonathan Field, who attended an ordination council at Rowe in 1787.

The records antedating 1854 have disappeared; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited with the Town Clerk.

CR I - "Book 5. Records of the Congregational Church of Leverett commencing with Jan. 1854 - Dec. 8, 1895."

CR II - "Book. 6. Records of the First Cong'l Church beginning Jan 1st 1896 including many of the officers and Pastors back to the year 1784 - June 23, 1927."

SR I - "Book 4. Records of the Congregational Society of Leverett. Mar. 18, 1861 - Apr. 14, 1898."

See David Eastman, "Brief History of the Congregational Church of Leverett," PVMAHP, I (1870-1879), 246-254.

#### LEXINGTON, First Congregational Unitarian Society (U).

The church was gathered on Oct. 21, 1696 as the Church of Christ in North Cambridge or Cambridge Farms, the Parish of Cambridge Farms having been incorporated in 1691. Lexington was made a town in 1713, and the church and parish became the First in the town. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1817.

Ministers:	Benjamin Estabrook	(ord. 1696; d. 1697)
	John Hancock	(ord. 1698; d. 1752)
	Ebenezer Hancock	(ord. colleague 1734; d. 1740)
	Jonas Clarke	(ord. 1755; d. 1805)

Ruling elders: none.<sup>1</sup>

Deacons:	John Meriam	(e. 1696; d. 1727)
	Samuel Stone	(e. 1696; d. 1703)
	Samuel Stone, Jr.	(e. 1715; d. 1732)
	Capt. Joseph Estabrook	(e. 1716; d. 1733)
	Joseph Brown	(e. 1727; d. 1764)
	John Laughton	(e. 1733; rem. 1744)
	Joseph Estabrook	(e. 1733; d. 1740)
	John Stone	(e. 1743; d. 1762)
	Joseph Loring	(e. 1743; d. 1746)
	James Brown	(e. 1756; d. 1768)
	Joseph Loring	(e. 1756; d. 1787)
	Jonas Stone	(e. 1766; d. 1790)
	Benjamin Brown	(e. 1768; d. 1802)
	Maj. John Bridge	(e. 1787; d. 1806)
	Nathan Reed	(e. 1787; res. 1808; d. 1811)

The records are church property, and are deposited at the Hancock-Clarke House, Lexington.

CR I - Church Records, 1690-1845.

CR I COPY - "A Copy of the Records of the Church of the first Congregational Society in Lexington." Made in 1854 by Bathsheba Whitman.

CR II - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Lexington." 1845-1868.

CR III - "American Church Register." 1869-1908.

PR I - "Records of the first Parish. Volume 1st." 1845-1857.

PR II - Parish Records, 1857-1896.

PR III - Parish Records, 1897-1913.

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1. That Lexington's meetinghouse of 1795 had a "Seat for the Elders & Deacons . . . between the [two flights of] stairs of the Pulpit" is recorded by visitor William Bentley, The Diary of William Bentley, D.D., Pastor of the East Church, Salem, Massachusetts (Gloucester, 1962), II, p. 147. The church, however, filled only the diaconate.



Miscellaneous records: Church Registers, one chronological, the other alphabetical in arrangement, 1845-1906; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1872-1898, 1894-1904; Pew Records, 1848-1881; Tax List, 1864.

# LINCOLN (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 20, 1747 in the Second Precinct of Weston, as "the Church in the Precinct set off from Weston, Concord and Lincoln." The church's name was changed when Lincoln became a town in 1754. The First Parish was organized in 1830.

Ministers: William Lawrence (ord. 1748; d. 1780)  
Charles Stearns, D.D. (ord. 1781; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Benjamin Brown	(Weston deacon, active in the gathering of the Lincoln Church; probably not e. deacon here; d. 1753)
	Joshua Brooks	(e. 1749; d. 1768)
	John Gove	(e. 1749; d. after 1780)
	Samuel Farrar	(e. 1763; d. 1783)
	Joshua Brooks, Jr.	(e. 1763; d. 1790)
	Edmund Wheeler	(e. 1784; d. 1805)
	Samuel Farrar, Jr.	(e. 1784; d. 1829)
	Eleazar Brooks	(e. 1795; res. 1803; d. 1806)
	John Hartwell	(e. 1804; d. 1820)
	Thomas Wheeler	(e. 1805; d. 1841)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records - Concord, Lexington and Weston Second Precinct, 1747-1754 - Lincoln Church Records, 1754-1827 - First Parish of Lincoln." The church also owns a microfilm copy of this volume.

CR II - "A Record of the Church of Christ in Lincoln, Massachusetts - 1828." 1828-1892.

CR III - Church Records, 1892-1936.

PR I - "Records of the First Parish in Lincoln." 1830-1866.

PR II - "1867: Records of the First Parish in Lincoln,  
No. 2." 1867-1939.

LINEBROOK Church and Parish (of Ipswich and Rowley) (see  
Ipswich, Linebrook).

LITTLETON, First Congregational Unitarian Church (U).

The church was gathered on Dec. 25, 1717; church and society  
took the title First in 1832, after the withdrawal of the  
orthodox.

Ministers:	Benjamin Shattuck	(ord. 1717; disp. 1730; d. 1763)
	Daniel Rogers	(ord. 1732; d. 1782)
	Edmund Foster	(ord. 1781; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Caleb Taylor	(m. 1730-1742)
	John Wood	(m. 1730-1751)
	Dr. David Russell	(m. 1731)
	Benjamin Hoar	(e. 1741; m. 1751)
	Abraham Patch	(e. 1756)
	Enoch Dole	(e. 1756; m. 1780)
	Jonathan Lawrence	(e. 1763; d. 1789)
	Samuel Taylor	(e. 1763)
	Oliver Hoar	(m. 1780; res. 1796)
	Josiah Hartwell	(m. 1780; d. 1791)
	Jonathan Patch	(e. 1786; d. 1794)
	Elias Taylor	(e. 1786; d. 1797)
	John Wood	(e. 1793; m. 1803)



Daniel Kimball	(e. 1793; d. 1813)
John Hartwell	(e. 1796; res. 1813)
Samuel Hoar	(e. 1796; m. 1800)

There are no records antedating 1731; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, The Daniel Rogers MS, containing church records, 1731-1781.

CR I COPY - Church Records, 1731-1781. Copied in 1877 by Francis P. Knowlton.

CR II - "Church Records, May 20, 1781 - November 3, 1854."

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1854-1864.

CR IV - "Records of the First Congregational Church & Society in Littleton, 1864." 1864-1926.

SR I - "Records of the First Congregational Society Littleton 1829-1868."

SR II - "Records of the First Congl. Society Littleton Vol. II." 1868-1915.

LONG LANE, Church and Society (see Boston, Arlington Street Church).

LONGMEADOW (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 17, 1716 as the Second Church in Springfield. The Second Parish had been organized in 1713, and Longmeadow Precinct was incorporated the following year. Longmeadow became a town in 1783, and church and parish became the First in the town. The

Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1823, and the church itself received incorporation on Dec. 18, 1891.

Ministers: Stephen Williams, D.D. (ord. 1716; d. 1782)  
Richard S. Storrs (ord. 1785; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: there are no records of diaconal elections until 1746.

Nathaniel Burt, Jr.	(e. 1746; m. 1748)
Nathaniel Ely	(e. 1753; d. 1799)
Aaron Colton	(e. 1756; m. 1761)
Nathaniel Ely III	(e. 1787; d. 1808)
William Colton	(e. 1787; m. 1808)

There are no records antedating 1741. The extant records are owned by the church, and except for the two earliest volumes deposited in a local bank, are kept in the church building.

CR I - "The Revd Doctor Williams' Records of Baptisms, Admissions into and Dismissions from the Church and of Marriages in the Town of Longmeadow from the year A.D. 1741 to the year 1768. Also to the year 1782." Includes sketchy church records. The church owns a microfilm copy.

CR II - "Records of the Church in Longmeadow - AD 1786. Janry 1st 1787." 1785-1837.

CR III - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Longmeadow." 1837-1891.

CR IV - "The First Church of Christ in Longmeadow." 1891-1918.

SR I - "Longmeadow Society Records." 1820-1923.

LOUDON, Church (see Otis).



LOWELL, Pawtucket (C).

The history of this church begins in 1794 when residents of western Dracut, dissatisfied with the location of the new Dracut meetinghouse, withdrew and made an abortive attempt to erect their own house of worship at what is now Hovey Square.

In June of 1797, these seceders organized and incorporated the West Congregational Society, razed the uncompleted Hovey Square building, and used the timbers to construct a meetinghouse at Pawtucket Falls. The first recorded parish meeting was held on July 6, 1797.

It is generally agreed that a church was gathered on Aug. 31, 1797; however, no minister was settled here until 1821, and the records consulted by historians of the area open in 1819.

In the latter year, the church voted itself Presbyterian; in 1837, it adopted Congregational principles once again. The church was incorporated in 1929.

Ruling elders and deacons: the first lay officers known were elected in 1821.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1819-1870.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "West Parish Church Dracut 1870 Nov. 1907."

CR II DUP - "1890. Annual Report Pawtucket Church."  
A more detailed record, 1890-1894.

CR II/III DUP - "This Book is Companion to Record Book Pawtucket Cong'l Church 1907." A more detailed record, 1894-1912.

VS I - Vital Statistics, 1819-1938. Compilation begun ca. 1870.

SR I - "Book #1. This Book was commenced in the year 1797. and finished in the year 1876."

SR II - "Book #2. Pawtucket Society." 1877-1929.

See A. C. Varnum, History of the Pawtucket Church and Society with Reminiscences of Pastors and Founders,

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1. This book of records dropped from sight after 1908.



Sketches of Congregational Churches in Lowell, and a Brief Outline of Congregationalism (Lowell, 1888); Silas R. Coburn, History of Dracut, Massachusetts, Called by the Indians Augumtoocooke and Before Incorporation, The Wilderness North of the Merrimac (Lowell, 1922).

LUDLOW, First (C).

The church was gathered in 1789. The First Parish was organized in 1835.<sup>1</sup>

Minister: Antipas Steward (ord. 1793; dism. 1803; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: in the absence of early church records, the church Manuals offer a list of persons thought to have been elected to the diaconate prior to 1824.

Jonathan Bartlett  
Timothy Keyes  
Jonathan Clough  
David Lyon  
Job Pease  
Stephen Jones  
Benjamin Sikes  
Oliver Dutton

A Manual of The First Church, Ludlow, Mass. (n.p., 1897) remarks the lack of records antedating 1819. The books cited as missing are reputed to be extant, but the church officers do not know their whereabouts. It seems likely that CR I was missing ca. 1900 when Cooke copied CR II.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1819-1839.

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1. The church claims the date 1774, but it should be noted that the three ministers active at Ludlow before 1793 were stated supplies. They were Peletiah Chapin (supply from 1774 to 1775), David Haskell (1784-1786) and Aaron Woodward (1789-1793).



CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1839-1896.

CR II COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Cong. Church Records (Membership," largely vital statistics. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR III - "Record of The First Church in Ludlow, Massachusetts." 1897-1940.

PR I - MISSING, Parish Records, 1835-1850.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1850-1897.

Miscellaneous records: "Records: Fund Bequests Gifts, First Church" (including some parish memoranda and town votes, 1835).

See Principles of Discipline and General Regulations, Confession of Faith, and Form of Covenant, adopted by The Congregational Church in Ludlow, Mass. (Springfield, 1839); Articles of Faith and Covenant of the First Congregational Church, of Ludlow, Mass. (Springfield, 1867); The First Church of Ludlow, Massachusetts. The One Hundred and Seventy-Fifth Anniversary. 1774-1949 (n.p., 1949).

LUNENBURG (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on May 15, 1728, and was extinct by 1867, when the parish sold the meetinghouse to the town.

Ministers:	Andrew Gardner, Jr.	(inst. 1728; dism. 1732; d. 1773)
	David Stearns	(ord. 1733; d. 1761)
	Samuel Payson	(ord. 1762; d. 1763)
	Zabdiel Adams	(ord. 1764; d. 1801)
	Timothy Flint	(ord. 1802; dism. 1814; d. 1839)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Samuel Johnson	(e. 1733; d. 1765)
	Ephraim Pearce	(e. 1733; res. 1750; d. 1781)

John Heywood	(e. 1739; res. 1750; d. 1779)
Maj. Jonathan Hubbard, Jr.	(e. 1739; rem. 1756)
Benjamin Foster	(e. 1750; rem. 1785)
William Stearns	(e. 1750; res. 1791; d. 1792)
Josiah Stearns	(d. 1802)
Samuel Putnam	(m. 1765; d. 1775)
Obadiah Walker	(e. 1770; m. 1793)
William Lowe	(e. 1775; d. 1807)
Jedidiah Bailey	(e. 1775; d. 1806)
Capt. Benjamin Goodrich	(e. 1791; res. 1817; d. 1834)
Stephen Stickney	(e. 1798; res. 1825; d. 1838)

The records are owned and held by the Town Clerk.

CR I - "Church Record, 1733." 1733-1805.

CR II - "Church Records, 1805-1837. Town of Lunenburg."

See George A. Cunningham, typescript, "A History of the Town of Lunenburg in Massachusetts, from the Original Grant, December 7th, 1719. to January 1st., 1866." Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

#### LYNN, First (C).

The church was gathered in somewhat irregular fashion in the summer of 1632.<sup>1</sup> Dissention arose soon thereafter,

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1. The minister and several of those who were to comprise the church arrived at Boston on June 5. One tradition places his ordination or installation on June 8, but the majority of authorities hold that this event took place during the month of August. See Joseph S. Clark, A Historical Sketch of the Congregational Churches in Massachusetts, from 1620 to 1858 (Boston, 1858), pp. 14-15; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 23.



one party calling in question the church's right to be considered such. An advisory council was convened, and it was agreed that the Lynn body was "a true church, though not constituted, at first, in due order, yet after consent and practice of a church estate had supplied that defect . . . ."

Nonetheless, "a new church was gathered" at the coming of the second minister, Nov. 8, 1636, to allay any fears concerning Lynn's ecclesiastical organization.

The parish was organized ca. 1721. It was superceded by the First Congregational Society, which in turn was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1944.

Ministers:	Stephen Bachiller	(ord. or inst. 1632; dism. 1636; d. 1660)
	Samuel Whiting	(ord. 1636; d. 1679)
	Thomas Cobbett	(inst. 1637; dism. 1655-1656; d. 1685)
	Joseph Whiting	(ord. teacher 1680; dism. 1680; d. 1723)
	Jeremiah Shepard	(ord. pastor 1680; d. 1720)
	Nathaniel Henschman	(ord. 1720; d. 1761)
	John Treadwell	(ord. 1763; dism. 1782; d. 1811)
	Obadiah Parsons	(inst. 1784; dism. 1792; d. 1801)
	Thomas C. Thacher	(ord. 1794; dism. 1813; d. 1849)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of records, nothing is known of deacons who may have served at Lynn prior to 1698.

John Ballard	(m. 1698; d. 1725)
Thomas Laughton, Jr.	(m. 1699; d. 1713)
Thomas Burrage	(m. 1713; d. 1717)
Daniel Mansfield	(m. 1721; d. 1728)
Richard Johnson	(m. 1730; d. 1754)
John Burrage	(e. 1739; d. 1761)
Joseph Haven	(m. 1742; d. 1749)
John Lewis	(m. 1756; d. 1775-1778)
Joseph Gray	(e. 1763; d. ca. 1784)
John Burrage	(e. 1771; d. 1780)

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1. James K. Hosmer (ed.), Winthrop's Journal (New York, 1908), I, p. 148. See also pp. 169, 199.



Theophilus Hallowell	(e. 1780; res. 1792; d. 1833)
Capt. William Farrington	(e. 1780; res. 1792; d. 1808)
Nathaniel Sargent	(e. 1795; d. 1798)
Jesse Rhodes	(e. 1795; d. 1821)

The records antedating 1792 were destroyed by fire many years ago; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records. 1792-1813." (Flyleaf: "Records of the first Congregational Church in Lynn Beginning from June 1, 1792.") Church records, 1792-1815, with vital statistics to 1855.

CR II - "Church Records. 1834-1864." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Church in Lynn. Vol. 6.")

CR III - "Church Records. 1864-1874." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Church in Lynn Commencing Sept. 12, 1864.")

CR IV - "Church Records. 1875-1882."

CR V - "Church Records. 1833-1891." (Flyleaf: "First Church of Christ in Lynn, Church Records Jan. 1883-1891.")

CR VI - MISSING, Church Records, 1891-1907.

PR I - "A Book of Records for y<sup>e</sup> 1st Parish in Lynn." 1721-1762.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1762-1783.

PR III - "Lynn December 1783. this Book Bought For the first Parish in Lynn to keep the Records For said Parish Bough[t] by me Ephraim Breed Prise £0-12-0." 1783-1827.

SR IV - "First Congregational Society Lynn 1827." 1827-1871.

SR V - "Records. 1st Cong. Society." 1870-1902.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1837-1890; collection of nineteenth century Society Treasurer's ledgers; Pew Deeds, 1865-1903.



See Alonzo Lewis and James R. Newhall, History of Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts: including Lynnfield, Saugus, Swampscott, and Nahant, 1629-1864 (Lynn, 1890 [reprint of 1865 edition], with supplementary volume published at Lynn, 1897).

LYNN, North Parish (see Lynnfield).

LYNN, Second Church and Parish (see Lynnfield).

LYNN, Second Church and Parish (see Saugus).

LYNN, Third Church and Parish (see Saugus).

LYNN, West Church and Parish (see Saugus).

LYNN, Westerly part (meetinghouse at) (see Saugus).

LYNN END, Church (see Lynnfield).

LYNNFIELD, First (U), extinct.  
Center (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 17, 1720 as the Second Church in Lynn.<sup>1</sup> The North Parish had been incorporated in 1713. In 1782, Lynnfield became a town, and church and parish were denominated the First.

In 1832, the orthodox withdrew, organizing the Orthodox Evangelical Society and Evangelical Congregational Church. During the ensuing years, membership in the First Church and Parish diminished, and worship under Unitarian auspices was sporadic. Universalist preaching was heard from 1849 to 1855, and from then on lay leadership dominated the older bodies. The First Parish and Church became extinct after 1936.

The present Congregational Church therefore claims the founding date of 1720, and holds the old church and parish records.

Ministers:	Nathaniel Sparhawk	(ord. 1720; dism. 1731; d. 1732)
	Stephen Chase	(ord. 1731; res. 1755; d. 1778)
	Benjamin Adams	(ord. 1755; d. 1777)
	Joseph Mottey	(ord. 1783; d. 1821)

Ruling elders: none.

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1. The area was variously known as "Lynn End" and "Lynn Farms."



Deacons:	William Eaton	(e. 1720; e. confirmed 1733; d. <u>ca.</u> 1738)
	John Bancroft	(e. 1720; e. confirmed 1733; d. 1768)
	Daniel Townsend	(e. 1738; d. 1761)
	Daniel Mansfield	(e. 1756; d. 1797)
	Nathaniel Bancroft	(e. 1763; d. 1810)
	John Perkins, Esq.	(e. 1796; d. 1823)
	Samuel Aborn	(e. 1804; d. <u>ca.</u> 1864) <sup>1</sup>

The records of the First Parish and Church are owned and held by the Lynnfield Center Congregational Church.

CR I - "Church Records Town of Lynnfield Massachusetts." (Flyleaf: "Deacon John Bancrofts Gift to Y<sup>e</sup> Church in Lynn End Anno Dom: 1732 Lynnfield Essex County Massachusetts The Book of Church Records Novbr: y<sup>e</sup> 29. Anno Christi 1732.") 1720-1829.

CR I PUB - Ebenezer Parsons, "Church Records of Lynnfield [A Copy]," EIHC, V (1863), 228-231; "First Book of Records of the First Church in Lynnfield," op. cit., XXXIV (1898), 117-193.

SR I - "Records of the Congregational Parish in Lynnfield - 1821." 1821-1907.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1776; Parish Order Book, 1823-1832.

Records of the orthodox church of 1832 are also held by the Lynnfield Center Congregational Church. Of the church records, the first volume is missing, so that the first extant entry dates from 1850. The parish records are complete from 1832.

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1. Deacon John Swain, who died in 1815, was probably elected to the diaconate after 1805.



MALDEN, First Parish (Univ.).  
First Church (C).

The church was gathered on May 11, 1649. Its parish was organized in 1739, following the division of the town into two precincts and the creation of a church in the Second or South Precinct in 1734. The older organization (and its parish) took the title of First (or North) Church and Parish.<sup>1</sup> The Trustees of the Malden Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1807.

In 1827, parish meetings dominated successively by orthodox and Universalist majorities voted first to settle an orthodox cleric, then a Universalist. The church voted its approval of the latter candidate. In 1832, the orthodox withdrew from the church of the parish, formed their own society, and took the title of "First Church."

The First Parish meanwhile reorganized, and was incorporated finally in 1894; its church continued its adherence to Universalist principles.

Both churches claim the founding date of 1649, although by court decision legal title to the church properties belong to the church of the First Parish.<sup>2</sup>

Ministers:	Marmaduke Matthews	(ord. 1651; rem. 1652; d. 1683)
	Michael Wigglesworth	(ord. teacher 1656; d. 1705)
	Benjamin Bunker	(ord. pastor 1663; d. 1669/70)
	Benjamin Blakeman	(ord. colleague 1674; rem. 1679; d. 1688-1700)
	Thomas Cheever	(ord. colleague 1681; dism. 1686; d. 1749)
	David Parsons	(ord. 1709; rem. 1721; d. 1743)
	Joseph Emerson	(ord. 1721; d. 1767)
	Peter Thacher, D.D.	(ord. 1770; dism. 1784; d. 1802)
	Adoniram Judson	(ord. 1787; dism. 1791; d. 1826)

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1. The Second or South Church reunited with the First Church in 1792.

2. Nonetheless, the extant records antedating the separation remain in the hands of the orthodox body.



Eliakim Willis	(ord. Malden Second 1752; continued as pastor of merged First and Second churches 1792; d. 1801)
Aaron Green	(ord. colleague 1795; res. 1827; d. 1853)

Ruling elder: Joseph Hills (e. ca. 1657; never ord.)<sup>1</sup>

Deacons: the list is incomplete.

John Upham	(m. 1670/71) <sup>2</sup>
Capt. John Green	(d. 1707)
Phineas Upham	(d. 1720)
John Dexter	(d. 1722)
Nathaniel Nichols	(d. 1725)
John Greenland	(m. 1719; d. 1728)
Joseph Green	(d. 1732)
John Pratt	(d. 1742)
Edward Emerson	(d. 1743)
James Hovey	(m. 1750-1768)
Thomas Lynd	(m. 1755)
Ezra Green, Esq.	(d. 1768)
John Shute	(m. 1770; d. 1780)
Samuel Howard	(m. 1771; d. 1775)
Joseph Caswell	(d. 1782)
Joseph Perkins	(e. 1771; d. 1793)
John Ramsdale	(e. 1776; d. 1825)
Ezra Sargeant	(m. 1795; res. 1808; d. 1810)

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1. Michael Wigglesworth records in his diary his success in preventing Hills' ordination as ruling elder (Edmund S. Morgan (ed.), "The Diary of Michael Wigglesworth," CSMP, XXXV [1942-46], 310-444). Ostensibly Hills' presiding over his own wedding and his peculiar notions about baptism occasioned Wigglesworth's opposition; furthermore, Hills' outspoken support of Wigglesworth's ousted predecessor probably had considerable to do with spurring the second minister's campaign to bar the elder-elect from office. See op. cit., 413-419.

2. BOSTON, CHARLESTOWN FIRST, CR I PUB HUNNEWELL, p. 15.



The church records antedating 1770 have long been lost.<sup>1</sup> The extant records of church and parish are divided between the two surviving churches, and are separately cited below. Not listed below, but useful in reconstructing the church's history are surviving documents from the pen of Michael Wigglesworth: Edmund S. Morgan (ed.), "The Diary of Michael Wigglesworth [1653-1657], CSMP, XXXV (1942-46), 310-444; a private diary for 1659-1669, HM, VII (1863), 361-363; Deloraine P. Corey, "Rev. Michael Wigglesworth [1679-1680]," NEHGR, LV (1901), 39-41. See also by Corey, "Life in the Old Parsonage 1772-1784 from the Diary of Rev. Peter Thacher [of Malden]," MHSR, No. 1 (1910), 38-59.

The records owned by the First Parish in Malden, Universalist, are deposited in a local bank.

CR I - "Church Records 1828 1882 1885." (Flyleaf: "Church Book, First Parish, Malden.") 1828-1882, with vital statistics to 1885.

CR II - "Record B. 1st Parish Malden." 1888-1903.

PR I - "First Parish 1739-1788."

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1788-1824.

PR III - "Records of the First Parish in Malden." 1824-1828.

PR IV - "Parish Records, 1828-1852."

PR IV DUP - "Parish Records, Jany 25, 1844 June 20, 1854."

PR V - "Parish Records, Feby 2, 1853 April 15, 1869."

PR V DUP - "Parish Records, Feby 2, 1853 April 15, 1853."

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1. Richard Frothingham, Jr., The History of Charlestown, Massachusetts (Boston, 1845), pp. 120-130. Henry H. Edes, Jr., in 1903 reported the disappearance of the Calley Diaries supposed to contain some early eighteenth century Malden church records. Portions of the Calley Diaries had been published by Thomas B. Wyman, Jr., "Extracts from the Diary of Robert Calley of Charlestown, Mass. 1699-1765," NEHGR, XVI (1862), 34-40, 129-133, from a MS copy made by Wyman in 1848; Edes' report is contained in a letter appended to the MS copy now owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.



PR VI - "First Parish Malden 1889." 1889-1895.

PR VII - "The First Parish in Malden Incorporated." 1894-1906.

Miscellaneous records: Records of Board of Trustees, 1897-1899.

The records owned by the First Church, Congregational, are held by that body.

CR I - Church Records, 1770-1831.

CR II - Church Records, 1832-1852.

CR III - Church Records, 1853-1887.

CR I, II, III COPY - A copy, made in 1889.

Miscellaneous records: two Church Registers, 1844ff.

MALDEN, Second (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on April 18, 1734<sup>1</sup> as the Church in the Second or South Precinct in Malden, which precinct was dissolved in 1737. In 1792, this Second or South Church reunited with Malden's First Church.

Ministers:	Joseph Stimpson	(ord. 1735; cta. 1744; d. 1752)
	Aaron Cleveland	(inst. 1747; disp. 1750; d. 1757)
	Eliakim Willis	(ord. 1752; continued as pastor of the merged First and Second churches 1792; d. 1801)

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1. According to Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 249, who lists this church under Everett. Other authorities date the church's gathering at the time of the first minister's ordination, Sept. 24, 1735. The extant records are inconclusive.

Ruling elders: the list may be incomplete.

Jonathan Sargeant	(e. 1734)
Ebenezer Upham	(e. 1734; m. 1747)
Lt. Thomas Burdit	(e. 1745; may have refused election)

Deacons: the list is incomplete.

John Mudge	(e. 1734; m. 1747)
Joses Bucknam	(m. 1744-1747)

The only surviving book of records is owned and held by the First Church, Congregational, of Malden.

Some additional information can be found in Benjamin Rand's article, "Rev. Aaron Cleveland," NEHGR, XLII (1888), 73-78.

CR I - Records of Ruling Elder Ebenezer Upham, 1744-1747. The volume also contains records of the Truro church, kept by his son, Rev. Caleb Upham.

MALDEN, North Church (see Malden, First Church).

MALDEN, South Church (see Malden, Second Church).

MANCHESTER (C).

Although the town was incorporated in 1645, the church here was not gathered until Nov. 7, 1716.<sup>1</sup> The Proprietors of the First Orthodox Congregational Meeting House were organized in 1809, and dissolved in 1848. The First Religious Society was organized in 1836 and dissolved in 1916.

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1. During the early years, Manchester folk were ministered to by Ralph Smith (sett. 1645-1650), John Winborn (sett. 1680-1689 ?), John Eveleth (sett. 1689-1695; ord. 1693), John Emerson (sett. 1695-1697), and Nicholas Webster (sett. 1698-1715).



Ministers: Ames Cheever (ord. 1716; dism. 1743-1744;  
d. 1756)  
Benjamin Toppan (ord. 1745; d. 1790)  
Ariel Parish (ord. 1792; d. 1794)  
Abraham Randall (ord. 1802; dism. 1808;  
d. 1852)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Benjamin Allen (e. 1716; d. 1746)  
Samuel Lee (e. 1716; d. 1754)  
Benjamin Lee (e. 1730; d. 1757)  
Jonathan Herrick (e. 1749; rem. 1778)  
John Tewksbury (e. 1757 ?; d. 1775)  
John Allen (e. 1758; d. 1788)  
Jacob Tewksbury (e. ca. 1788; refused to serve  
1792-94; served occasionally  
to 1805; served regularly  
until d. 1812)  
Delucena Bingham (e. 1805; d. 1837)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Manchester Church Records." 1717-1743, largely  
vital statistics.

CR II - "A reccord Book of the church of christ in man-  
chester." 1744-1827, with statistics to 1851.

CR III - "Records of the Orthodox Congr. Church, Manches-  
ter, Vol. III." 1825-1875.

CR IV - "Manchester, Jan. 17th 1876. Fourth Record Book  
of the Orthodox Congl Church, Manchester, Commenced this  
day." 1876-1902.

PROP I - Records of the Proprietors of the Meeting House,  
1809-1845.

SR I - "Records of the first religious Society in Manches-  
ter, March 1, 1836." 1836-1875.

SR II - "1876. Record Book No. 2 of the First Parish in  
the Town of Manchester." 1876-1916.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1828-  
1868; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1837-1917.

MANITOUWATTOOTAN (or OHKONKEMME) Indian Church (see West Tisbury, Christiantown Praying Town and Indian Church).

MANOMET (see Plymouth, Manomet).

MANSFIELD (U), extinct.

In 1731, a part of Norton was set off as "A Separate Precinct" (sometimes called the North Precinct), and on Feb. 23, 1737 a church was gathered here. When the area became the town of Mansfield in 1770, the church's name was accordingly changed, and at the same time, a parish was created.

The orthodox members of the church withdrew in 1838, forming their own society and reorganizing themselves as a church. The town (or First Parish) church continued under Unitarian auspices until 1889, when the ownership of its properties was transferred to the First Universalist Parish, now also extinct.

Ministers: Ebenezer White (ord. 1737; d. 1761)  
Roland Green (ord. 1761; d. 1808)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early records, only an incomplete list can be constructed.

Benjamin Williams	(d. 1757)
Benjamin Skinner	(e. 1761)
Ephraim Grover	(d. 1766)
Richard Briggs	(e. 1774)
Abiel Leonard	(e. 1774)
John Dean	(e. 1784)

The extant records of the church are owned and held as indicated.



C MISC - "Leisure Hours. No. 1. 1812." (Flyleaf: "Historical Sketches relating to the Parish and Church in Mansfield, from their origin to Janry 1812.") Unsigned MS composed ca. 1812, based on since-lost fragmentary church records of Green's pastorate. Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

PR I - Precinct Records, with scattering of church votes, eighteenth century. Fragile originals in microfilm and Xerox copy, owned and held by the Universalist Historical Society Library, Tufts University, Medford.

PR II - "First Congregational Parish of Mansfield." 1818-1889. Owned and held by the Town Clerk.

See also George F. Clark, History of the Town of Norton, Bristol County, Massachusetts. From 1669 to 1859 (Boston, 1859); The History and Commemoration of 100 Years in the Orthodox Congregational Church, Mansfield, Massachusetts, MCMXXXVIII (Mansfield, 1938).

#### MARBLEHEAD, First (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 13, 1684, the area having been served by missionary preacher William Walton from 1638 until his death in 1668. The First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1824, and dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1924.

Ministers:	Samuel Cheever	(sett. 1668; ord. 1684; d. 1724)
	John Barnard	(ord. 1716; d. 1770)
	William Whitwell	(ord. 1762; d. 1781)
	Ebenezer Hubbard	(ord. 1783; d. 1800)
	Samuel Dana	(ord. 1801; res. 1837; d. 1864)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Benjamin Gale	(e. 1684; d. by 1716)
	Richard Reith	(e. 1684; impeached and dism. 1704; d. 1707)



John Stacey	(e. 1703/04; d. by 1716)
John Merritt	(e. 1705; d. 1707)
John Dixey	(e. 1706/07; d. 1737)
Richard Skinner	(e. 1706/07; dism. to Second Church 1716; d. 1729)
John White	(e. 1716; d. 1748)
John Bayley	(e. 1727; d. by 1755)
Benjamin Hendley	(e. 1749; d. 1764)
Joshua Orne, Jr.	(e. 1759; d. 1772)
William Gale	(e. 1759; m. 1762)
Stephen Phillips	(e. 1765; d. 1811)
Benjamin Stacey	(e. 1765; m. 1770)
William Williams	(e. 1773; m. 1782)
John Goodwin	(e. 1787; m. 1825)
Nathan Bowen	(e. 1787; m. 1825)

The records are owned and held by the church. Not listed below, but illuminating in its description of early eighteenth century church life is "Autobiography of the Rev. John Barnard," MHSC, 3rd Ser., V (1836), 177-243.

CR I - "First Book Containing the Records of the First Congregational Church in Marblehead Commencing 1684 and terminating 1800." 1684-1801.

CR II - "Second Book Containing the Records of the First Congregational Church in Marblehead Commencing 1740 and terminating 1837." Vital statistics, 1740-1837; church records, 1802-1837.

CR III - "Third Book Records of the First Church in Marblehead." 1837-1857.

CR IV - "Records. 1857 to 1928. First Church in Marblehead." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Church in Marblehead from March 27, 1857 to January 1929.")

The terms "proprietors," "parish" and "society" tend to be used interchangeably, the first predominating until 1857, and the last thereafter.

MH I - "This Booke Containes The first Motions Towards building a New Meetteing House in This Towne, of Marblehead." Scattered records of meetinghouse committee, 1695-1740.

PROP I - "Record First Congregational Society From 1755 to 1795." (Flyleaf: "The old Meeting-house Book Began Feby 19.1755 by Fr<sup>s</sup> Felton Clerk.")



PROP II - "Record First Congregational Society From 1795 to 1825."

PROP/SR III - "Record First Congregational Society in Marblehead in the County of Essex Incorporated February 7th, 1824." 1824-1866.

SR IV - "Records of the First Congregational Society, Marblehead, Mass. Commenced February 5th, 1867." 1867-1888.

SR V - Society Records, 1889-1911.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1717-1836, 1879-1889, 1890-1926; Society Collector's Accounts, 1783-1807; Records and Accounts of Trustees of Monies Bequeathed to the Church and Society, 1837-1866, 1856-1869, 1856-1866, 1857-1869.

#### MARBLEHEAD, Second (U).

The church was gathered on April 25, 1716. The Proprietors of the Second Congregational Society were incorporated in 1851, having organized a century earlier.

Ministers:	Edward Holyoke	(ord. 1716; dism. to presidency of Harvard College 1737; d. 1769)
	Simon Bradstreet	(ord. 1737/38; d. 1771)
	Isaac Story	(ord. colleague 1771; res. 1802; d. 1816)
	Hezekiah May	(ord. 1803; res. 1808; d. 1843)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Deacon Richard Skinner	(e. Marblehead First Church 1706/07; e. here 1718; d. 1727)
	Samuel Stacey	(e. 1718; dism. to Marblehead First Church 1743)
	John Homans	(e. 1727; m. 1751)

John Pearce	(e. 1742/43; rem. 1771 but remained deacon here; d. 1784)
Robert Hooper	(e. 1742/43; d. 1763)
William Doliber	(e. 1763; d. 1793)
Samuel Gatchell	(e. 1763; m. 1795)
Joseph Ireson	(e. 1793)
Joseph Butnam	(e. 1793)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited with a local bank. Some of the earlier documents are loaned during the summer months to the Marblehead Historical Society for display purposes.

CR I - "Unitarian Records Book No. 1 1716- . " 1716-1793.

CR II - "Second Book Book of Records Marblehead." (Fly-leaf: "A book of Records. The property of the Second church of Christ in Marblehead; now under the pastoral care of Isaac Story, who was ordained M.l.1771, as a Colleague with The Revd. Simon Bradstreet.") 1793-1811, with vital statistics to 1838.

CR III - Church Records, 1811-1847. Includes marriage statistics, 1716-1762, and admissions, 1716-1838.

CR I, II, III COPY & CR IV - "Copy - Church records - 1716-1811 original records 1811 to 1849 Rev. Bartlett. records: - year 1866 1889 Rev. Appleby Members 1716-1858 Marriages 1716-1898 lacking 1863-1868." Some church records, 1838-1892.

VS COPY I - "Transcript of Baptisms &c in the 2d Church of Christ in Marblehead from the Records of the Same." Incomplete copy of baptisms and marriages, 1716-1811.

VS COPY II - "Copy of Baptisms, 1716 to 1866 - 1902 to 1905."

PROP I - "Proprietors of the new Meeting House &c in Marblehead their Book." 1755-1802.

PROP II - Records of the Proprietors of the Meeting House, 1802-1827.

PROP III - "The Property of New Meeting [House] Parish - Bought January 16th. 1828." 1827-1859.

PROP IV - "Records of the Second Cong. Society." 1859-1892.



PROP V - Records of the Proprietors of the Society, 1893-1953.

Miscellaneous records: Proprietors Committee Records, 1819-1910; Pew Accounts, 1804-1833.

See also Stephen P. Hathaway, Jr., "The Second Congregational Church in Marblehead," EIHC, XXII (1885), 81-102; Thomas C. Barrow, "Church Politics in Marblehead, 1715," ibid., XCVIII (1962), 121-127.

#### MARION (C).

The town of Rochester was organized in 1686, and a church gathered there in 1703. A meetinghouse located in the vicinity of present-day Marion was replaced with another at Rochester Center. A second precinct was set off in 1736 (modern Mattapoisett), and a third in 1791 (now called "North Rochester.") The Fourth Congregational Precinct (Sippican Parish) in Rochester was incorporated in 1798, and eventually, in 1852, became the town of Marion. Preaching was heard in Marion as early as 1795; in 1799 the residents completed their own meetinghouse and Oliver Cobb, the minister of Rochester's First Church, divided his time between the two congregations. In 1827, an ecclesiastical council convened to ordain a colleague instead advised a division into two distinct churches. Cobb elected to remain at Marion; his colleague-elect was ordained over the Rochester First Church. By terms of the division, the records (and continuity) were to remain at Rochester, and a copy of the records to be provided the Marion church. The Marion church further agreed to take the name "South Church" rather than "First Church," the latter title belonging to the Rochester body.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Apparently the records were allocated in direct contradiction to the terms of the agreement. This may have inclined Frederick L. Weis to present his data for the 1703 church under Marion, rather than under Rochester. See The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 258.



The Proprietors of the Fund for Supporting Public Worship in the Fourth Congregational Precinct in the Town of Rochester were incorporated in 1826, the Congregational Church and Society in Marion in 1856, and the First Congregational Society in 1878. The church was incorporated in 1919.

Minister: Oliver Cobb, D.D. (ord. Rochester First Church 1799, serving congregations there and at this meeting-house; served here following division into two churches 1827; d. 1849)

Ruling elders and deacons: apparently no lay officers were elected until after 1827.

The earliest Rochester church records date from 1725, and it is unlikely that separate records were kept at Marion until 1827. See ROCHESTER FIRST, CR I COPY and CR II. The Marion records are owned and held by the church, the first volume apparently having been destroyed in the hurricane of 1938.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1827-1872.

CR II - Church Records, 1872-1900.

PR I - "Record-Book of the Fourth Precinct in Rochester. Book I." 1798-1887.

Miscellaneous records: Pastors and Deacons Records, 1895-1915.

See The Congregational Church, in Marion (Middleboro, 1859); L. Cobb, Historical Sketch of the Congregational Church in Marion, Mass.: A Sermon (New Bedford, 1862); History and Manual of the First Congregational Church Rochester, Mass. 1703 1909 (n.p., 1909); Olive H. Somers, From Ministers Rock to The Meeting House, 1683-1941. First Congregational Church of Marion, Massachusetts (n.p., 1941).



## MARLBORO, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 3, 1666, the First Parish being organized in 1808. In 1833 the parish was superceded by the First Evangelical Congregational Society, itself replaced by the Union Society of Marlborough, incorporated in 1835. In the latter year the church took the name, Union Congregational Church; it was incorporated in 1891.

Ministers:	William Brinsmead, Jr.	(ord. 1666; d. 1701)
	Robert Breck	(ord. 1704; d. 1730/31)
	Benjamin Kent	(ord. 1733; dism. 1735; d. 1788)
	Aaron Smith	(ord. 1740; dism. 1778; d. 1781)
	Asa Packard	(ord. 1785; dism. 1806; d. 1843)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: the list is incomplete, at least for the early years.

John Ruddock	(e. 1687)
Edward Rice	(e. 1687; d. 1712)
John Woods	(e. 1704; d. <u>ca.</u> 1716)
Joseph Newton	(e. 1710; d. <u>1727</u> )
James Woods	(e. 1716; d. <u>ca.</u> 1719)
Caleb Rice	(e. 1718/19; <u>d.</u> 1739)
Thomas Keyes	(e. 1726)
John Barnes	(e. 1729)
James Woods, Jr.	(e. 1741)
----- Stevens	(e. 1741)
Andrew Rice	(e. 1742; d. 1775)
Joseph Tayntor	(e. 1742; d. 1764)
Daniel Barnes	(e. 1762; d. 1775)
Samuel Stow	(e. 1770; d. 1818)
Simon Stow	(e. 1770; d. 1795)
Thomas Howe, Jr.	(e. 1776)
Samuel Howe	(e. 1794; d. 1820)
Abner Goodell	(e. 1794; d. 1823)
Josiah Howe	(e. 1796; d. 1827)

The records dating 1704 have long since disappeared. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

Not cited below, but useful in the absence of records for the first pastorate is Samuel A. Green (ed.), "Diary of

Rev. William Brinsmead," MHSP, 2nd Ser., XV (1887-1889), 298-302. Green excerpts a Latin MS notebook, apparently the second of two volumes, in which Brinsmead recorded sermon notes and miscellaneous church acts.

CR I - "Records of First Church, Marlborough, Vol. I." 1704-1802.

CR II - "Records of The Church of Christ in Marlborough." 1802-1832.

CR III - "Records of the East Church of Christ in Marlborough." 1833-1891.

PR I - Parish Records, 1808-1834.

SR II - Society Records, 1835-1892.

SR III - Society Records, 1892-1902.

#### MARSHFIELD, First (C).

The church was gathered in 1632 in what was then called Green(s) Harbor; in 1640 the area was made the town of Marshfield, and the church's name was duly changed. The First Parish was organized in 1739, and the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1822.

Ministers:	Richard Blinman	(sett. 1641; rem. 1642; d. 1687)
	Edward Bulkley	(ord. 1642/43; rem. 1656; d. 1695/96)
	Samuel Arnold	(ord. 1658; d. 1693)
	Edward Tompson	(ord. 1696; d. 1704/05)
	James Gardner	(ord. 1707; d. 1739)
	Samuel Hill	(ord. 1740; disp. 1752; d. 1764)
	Joseph Green	(ord. 1753; disp. 1758; d. 1768)
	Thomas Browne	(ord. 1759; disp. 1763; d. 1797)
	William Shaw, D.D.	(ord. 1766; d. 1816)



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early church records, the names of most of the seventeenth century deacons are unknown.

Josiah Winslow	(d. by 1676) <sup>1</sup>
William Ford	(m. 1696; d. 1721)
Samuel Arnold	(m. 1696)
John Foster	(e. and ord. 1701; d. 1732)
Israel Thomas	(e. 1717; d. 1755)
Thomas Macomber	(e. 1741; d. 1771)
Thomas Waterman	(e. 1748/49; d. 1774)
Nehemiah Thomas	(e. 1750; d. 1782)
Thomas Dingley	(e. 1775; d. 1806)
William Weston	(e. 1783; d. 1805)

There are no records antedating 1696. The extant records are owned by the church and deposited with the Town Clerk.

CR I - "Tibi Domine Jesu - Records of the Church of Christ in Marshfeild From October 1696 - Deut. 6. 6.7.8. Cetera desunt & desiderantur." 1696-1747.

CR I PUB - George E. Bowman, "Records of the First Church in Marshfield, Mass.," MD, XI (1909), 36-39, 121-123, XXXI (1933), 117-124, 161-171, XXXII (1934), 12-21.

CR II - "Church Records." 1747-1850.

CR III - Church Records, 1850-1874.

CR IV - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Congregational Church, Marshfield, Mass. Volume Four.") 1874-1920.

PR I - "A Book of Records for y<sup>e</sup> first of South Precinct In Marshfield Bought By Ne: Thomas y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Day of August AD 1747." 1738-1813.

PR II - "Parish Records, 1814-48."

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1. PLYMOUTH FIRST, CR PUB I & II, p. 250: "Mrs Margaret Winslow, the Relict of Mr. Josiah Winslow, Deacon of the church at Marshfeild, in her widow-hood removed hither, & having lived in communion with us about 7 yeares, she dyed, September, 28: [1683] being about 75 yeares of age, she was a very choice christian."



PR III - Parish Records, 1849-1919.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1832-1851; annual Parish Assessors' Rate Books (held by the church historian) for the years 1798, 1800-1803, 1806, 1808-1823, 1840-1844, 1854-1858, 1860-1872; Parish Treasurer's Accounts (held by the church historian), 1894-1916; Pew Accounts, 1838-1851, 1892-1897 (the latter volume held by the church historian).

See Ebenezer Alden, Jr.'s anonymously published Document of the Pilgrim Conference of Churches, Containing an Historical Sketch of the First Church in Marshfield. October, 1854. No. 4. (n.p., 1854); Lysander S. Richards, History of Marshfield (Plymouth, 1901-1905), 2 vols.; Joseph C. Hagar et alii, Marshfield 70° - 40' W; 42° - 5' N The Autobiography of a Pilgrim Town (Marshfield, 1940).

MARSHFIELD, Marshfield Hills, Second (U).

The church was gathered in 1738/39 as the Second Church in Marshfield. The Second or North Precinct/Parish/Society (the names are used interchangeably) was incorporated under the last-mentioned title in 1738, having been organized in 1713.

Ministers: Atherton Wales (ord. 1739; d. 1795)  
Elijah Leonard (ord. 1789; d. 1834)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of records, none of the names of lay officers have survived.

Church records from the inception of the church were extant as recently as 1940, when they were excerpted for publication in Hagar's tercentenary history (see MARSHFIELD, First). The present officers of the church and parish report no knowledge of any records antedating the federation of the church ca. 1930.



MARSHFIELD, North Parish or Society (see Marshfield, Marshfield Hills).

MARSHPEE (see Mashpee).

MARTHA'S VINEYARD (see Chilmark, Edgartown, Gay Head, Gosnold, Tisbury, West Tisbury).

MASHPEE, Indian Church (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 17, 1670, the territory having been purchased by Richard Bourne for the perpetual use of the native population. The district (later town) of Mashpee was organized in 1763.

During the ministry of William Apes, ca. 1830, a separate Baptist church was gathered in Mashpee by Joseph Amos (Blind Jo); by 1858, the community had largely accepted Baptist principles, and the 1670 church was so identified. Today the church is technically interdenominational, and largely inactive, although the meetinghouse is maintained as an historical site.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian church. See also two articles by Gideon Hawley, "Biographical and Topographical Anecdotes respecting Sandwich and Marshpee, Jan. 1794," MHSC, 1st Ser., III (1794, pub. 1810), 188-193; "A Description of Mashpee, in the County of Barnstable. September 16th, 1802," op. cit., 2nd Ser., III (1815, rep. 1846), 1-12.

Ministers:	Richard Bourne	(ord. 1670, associated with fourteen Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1682)
	Shearjashub Bourne	(m. 1682-1719) <sup>1</sup>
	Josiah Shanks	(Indian preacher, also associated with Mashpee Canaumet Praying Town, <u>ca.</u> 1685)
	Simon Popmonnit	(Indian preacher, from 1685; d. 1725-1730)
	Rowland Cotton	(ord. Sandwich First 1694, ministered to six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1721/22)
	Hon. Ezra Bourne	(prob. not ord.; Indian mission at Mashpee from 1719; d. 1764)
	Solomon Briant	(Indian preacher, also associated with Bourne [Herring Pond(s), Mannamit], Orleans [Potanumaquut], Yarmouth [Matakees] from 1720; d. 1775)
	Joseph Briant	(Indian preacher, also associated with Bourne [Pocasset] and Orleans [Potanumaquut] 1758; d. 1759-1760)
	Joseph Bourne	(ord. Mashpee 1729, also ministered to seven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1767)
	Joseph Green	(ord. Marshfield First 1753; inst. Yarmouth West 1762, ministered to three Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1768)
	Gideon Hawley	(ord. 1754 to Indian mission field; inst. here 1758, associated with eleven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1807)
	Elisha Clap	(missionary, m. 1808-1811)

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1. Mentioned by Frederick L. Weis, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," CSMP, XXXVIII (1947-1951), 174, and not to be confused with the minister of the same name who served Sandwich First from 1724 to 1761.



Phinehas Fish	(ord. 1812, also ministered at Bourne [Herring Pond(s)]; rem. 1840; d. 1854)
William Apes	(Pequot Indian preacher adopted by the Mashpees, active here 1833-1855)
Joseph Amos	(Baptist Indian preacher known as "Blind Jo," active here <u>ca.</u> 1840)

Deacon: Zacheus Popmunet (m. 1767; d. 1770)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

#### MATTAPOISETT (C).

The church was gathered on July 27, 1736 as the Second Church in Rochester, the Second Precinct having been incorporated the previous month. The Proprietors of the Meeting House were organized in 1842. When the area became the town of Mattapoisett in 1857, the name of the church was accordingly changed, and three years later, the precinct was reorganized as the First Precinct in Mattapoisett (and still continues today).

Ministers:	Ivory Hovey, Jr.	(ord. 1740; disp. 1768; d. 1803)
	Lemuel LeBaron	(ord. 1772; d. 1836)

Ruling elders:	George Barlow	(e. 1744; m. 1771)
	Deacon Nathan Tupper	(e. 1744; rem. 1744; m. 1750 as Matta- poisett delegate to <sup>1</sup> council at Berkley)

Deacons:	Joseph Barlow	(e. 1742; cta. 1781)
	Nathan Tupper	(e. 1742; elev. to ruling elder 1744; rem. 1744; m. 1750)

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1. FREETOWN, CR I, p. 52.

Constant Dexter	(e. 1744; d. 1757)
Ezekiel Clark	(e. 1757; m. 1791)
Timothy West	(e. 1781; cta. 1791)
Elihu Sherman	(e. 1791; rem. 1799)
Thomas Tobey	(e. 1791; m. 1826)

The records are owned by the church and deposited at a local bank.

CR I - "Records of the Second Church in Rochester July 27th. 1736-1857." (Flyleaf: "The Chh Booke - Or The Records of the Second Chh. in Rochester Which was first Embodied July 27 1736.")

CR II - "Records Cong. Ch. Vol. II." (Flyleaf: "Second Volume of Records of Second Church of Rochester [now Mattapoisett] [Originally organized July 27, 1736.] [Commenced April 1. 1858.]" ) 1858-1894.

CR III - "1894-1923. 'Y<sup>e</sup> Chh's Book' Vol. III." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Congregational Church Mattapoisett, Massachusetts. 'The Second Chh. in Rochester.' Vol III 1894 to 1923.")

PR I - "The Book of Records for Mattapoisett Precinct in Rochester December the 9th - 1736." 1736-1887.

PR II - "Records of the First Precinct in Mattapoisett Book 2nd." 1887-present.

#### MEDFIELD, First Congregational Parish (U).

The church was gathered in December of 1651. The First Parish was organized in 1814, and the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund received incorporation two years later. A short-lived separation from the church in 1748 failed to produce a Separate church.<sup>1</sup>

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1. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 315.



Ministers: John Wilson, Jr. (ord. 1652; d. 1691)  
 Joseph Baxter (ord. 1697; d. 1745)  
 Jonathan Townsend (ord. 1745; diss. 1769;  
 d. 1776)  
 Thomas Prentiss, D.D. (ord. 1770; d. 1814)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early church records, no names of lay officers antedating 1696 are known. The following served as deacons from that time.

John Harding	(m. 1696)
John Thurston	(e. 1700)
Capt. Samuel Barber	(e. 1710)
Samuel Rocket	(e. 1710)
Lt. Samuel Smith	(e. 1721; m. 1738)
George Barber	(e. 1721; m. 1744)
Peter Balch	(e. 1739)
Ephraim Wheelock	(e. 1739; one of the "ag- grieved brethren" who left the church ca. 1740; re- stored to fellowship 1781)
David Morse	(e. 1746; m. 1753)
John Pratt	(e. 1746; m. 1751)
Peter Coolidge	(e. 1753; m. 1783)
James Boyden	(e. 1761; m. 1776)
Daniel Perry	(e. 1779; d. 1804)
Enoch Adams	(e. 1779; m. 1802)
Obed Fisher	(e. 1795; cta. 1827)
Jonathan Wight	(e. 1804; d. 1830)

There are no records antedating 1697. The extant records are owned by the church, and (unless otherwise noted) are held by the Medfield Historical Society and kept at the Medfield Public Library.

CR I - "Medfield Church Book. May 7, 1738." Church records, 1738-1866 (lacuna, 1839-1853); vital statistics, 1697-1860.

C DAYBOOK I - "Journal of the Unitarian Church. First Parish. Medfield, Mass. 1867-1868." Record of church and parish activities. 1867-1869. Held by the church.

C DAYBOOK II - "Medfield First Parish." Record of church and parish activities, 1869-1871. Held by the church.

C DAYBOOK III - Church and Parish Daybook, 1872-1873, with occasional entries to 1877. Held by the church.

CR II - "Minister's Book, 1874-1951." (Flyleaf: "Records of First Parish [Church] in Medfield.") 1874-1951. Held by the church.

PR I - "Records of The Congregational Parish in Medfield 1814-1834."

PR II - Parish Records, 1835-1860.

PR III - "Property of the First Congregational Parish stored here for safety. Records." 1861-1908.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Book, 1843-1904; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1815-1866; Parish Committee Order Book, 1815-1860.

See Mrs. J. Hardy Henderson, Historical Sketch of the First Congregational Parish (Unitarian), Medfield, Massachusetts, 1651-1951 (Medfield, 1951, rep. 1962).

#### MEDFORD, Unitarian-Universalist Church (U/Univ.).

The church was gathered on Feb. 11, 1713, and the First Parish incorporated in 1824. The Trustees of the Congregational Ministerial Fund for the First Parish in the Town of Medford were incorporated in 1827. In 1961, a merger of the First Parish Church, and two local Universalist groups created the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Medford.

Ministers:	Aaron Porter	(ord. 1713; d. 1722)
	Ebenezer Turrell	(ord. 1724; d. 1778)
	David Osgood, D.D.	(ord. 1774; d. 1822)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Thomas Willis, Sr.	(e. 1713; res. 1720)
	John Whitmore, Sr.	(e. 1713)
	Percival Hall	(e. 1720)
	Thomas Willis, Jr.	(e. 1721; d. 1736)
	Thomas Hall	(e. 1726)



Benjamin Willis	(e. 1736; d. 1767) <sup>1</sup>
Jonathan Bradshaw	(e. 1755)
Ebenezer Brooks	(e. 1759)
Isaac Warren	(e. 1767; m. 1785)
Samuel Kidder	(e. 1767; d. 1777)
Richard Hall	(e. 1794; m. 1814)
Capt. Isaac Warren	(e. 1794; d. ca. 1799)
Samuel Kidder	(e. 1794; m. 1814)

The two volumes of records that could be located are owned by the church, and held by the City Clerk.<sup>2</sup>

CR I - "Records of the First Church, Medford. 1712-1773."

VS I PUB - "Church Records, - 1713-1721," MHR, VIII (1905), 32. Admissions only.

CR II - "Records of the First Church, Medford. 1774-1823."

See J. T. McCollum, Historical Discourse, A Sermon Preached at the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the First Trinitarian Cong'l Church of Medford (Medford, 1873); Moses W. Mann, "Ye Olde Meeting-House of Meadford," MHR, XI (1908), 25-42, 62-67.

MEDWAY, Second (Federated) Church of West Medway (C).

The first church in Medway was gathered in 1714. In 1748, the town was divided into western and eastern precincts, the latter containing the original church of the town. This eastern precinct in 1885 became the town of Millis, which therefore contains the original First Church of Medway.

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1. See "Extracts from Dea. Willis's Diary," MHR, V (1902), 95.

2. During the months this inventory was being compiled, the church was involved in negotiating the merger consummated in 1961. Church officers were unable to locate any records other than those cited here.



The Second Church in Medway was gathered in the West Precinct on Oct. 4, 1750.<sup>1</sup> The federation is of very recent date.

Ministers: David Thurston (ord. 1752; res. 1769; d. 1777)  
David Sanford (ord. 1773; d. 1810)

Ruling elders: Capt. Nathaniel Whiting (e. 1753)  
John Pond (e. 1753; d. 1763)  
John Pond, Jr. (e. 1763)

Deacons: Nathaniel Cutler (e. 1752)  
Joseph Holbrook (e. 1752)  
Jonathan Metcalf (e. 1752)  
Samuel Fisher (e. 1753)  
James Morse  
Moses Hill (e. 1777)  
Joseph Ware (e. 1798)  
Jonathan Metcalf (e. 1801; res. 1831)  
Nathaniel Cutler (e. 1805; res. 1831)

The church officers report no records extant antedating the present century. Records for the first pastorate were apparently extant at the time E. O. Jameson published The History of Medway, Mass., 1713-1885 (Millis, 1886), but have since disappeared.

The Congregational Library, Boston, holds a packet of miscellaneous papers, including records of scattered church votes taken by the First and Second Churches of Medway. See E. O. Jameson, Historical Discourse, 1714-1876 (Boston, 1877); E. O. Jameson, History of Medway, Mass., 1713-1885 (Millis, 1886); George F. Partridge, History of the Town of Bellingham, Massachusetts, 1719-1919 (Bellingham, 1919), especially pp. 79-80; Herbert N. Hixon, October 4th 1750 - October 7-8th 1850 Historical Address given at the Bicentennial of the Second Church of Christ in Medway West Medway, Massachusetts (n.p., 1950); and the several church Manuals, especially the one printed at Boston in 1879.

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 278, lists this church as the First Congregational Church, under West Medway, which is not an independent town. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 300, 315, lists this as a Separate church for the duration of the first pastorate, but the evidence presented is inconclusive.



MEDWAY, East Church, Precinct, Parish (see Millis).

MEDWAY, First Church and Parish (see Millis).

MEDWAY, West Precinct, Parish (see Medway, Second (Federated) Church of West Medway).

MENDON, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Dec. 1, 1669. The First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1784 and dissolved in 1792, being effectually superceded by the First Parish, which had taken form some years earlier in succession to the precinct organization.

Prior to the gathering of the church, preaching was supplied by Benjamin Eliot (1667-1668) and John Rayner, Jr. (1668-1669), sometimes cited as the church's first ministers.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers:	Joseph Emerson	(ord. 1669; rem. 1675; d. 1679/80)
	Grindall Rawson	(ord. 1684; d. 1714/15)
	Joseph Dorr	(ord. 1716; d. 1768)
	Joseph Willard	(ord. 1769; disp. 1782; d. 1828)

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1. See George F. Clark, "Who Was the First Minister of Mendon?" NEHGR, XXXV (1881), 157-159.

Caleb Alexander (inst. 1786; dism. 1802;  
d. 1828)  
Preserved Smith (inst. 1805; dism. 1812;  
d. 1834)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early church records, the listings are incomplete.

Ruling elders: Deacon John Jones (e. 1735/36)  
Josiah Adams (e. 1737)

Deacons: Stephen Cook<sup>1</sup>  
John Jones (m. 1728; elev. to ruling  
elder 1735/36)  
Jacob Aldrich (e. 1737)  
Nathaniel Nelson (e. 1737)  
Nathaniel Jones (e. 1737)  
Edward Rawson (m. 1768; d. ca. 1782)  
Josiah Adams (m. 1768-1798)  
Capt. Peter Penniman (e. 1780)  
John Tyler (e. 1786)  
Seth Chapin (e. 1787; res. 1805)  
Nathaniel Rawson (e. 1790; dism. and rem.  
1795)  
John Hayward (e. 1802; m. 1805)

There are no records antedating 1728; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "The Church Book." (Flyleaf: "Mendon Chh Book of Records from the first Constitution of Sd Chh in order to have all the Transactions of the Said Chh. as far as may appear Either by [illegible] or otherwise to be Entred. for the Benefit and Use of the Chh. So far as the Chh Shall Judge necessary. The Church Book For the first Church in Mendon.") Church records, 1728-1787 (lacuna, 1737-1768); vital statistics: baptisms, 1769-1788; admissions, 1769-1780; marriages, 1786-1788.

CR II - "The Records of the first Congregational Church in Mendon. Given to the Church by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Peter Penniman." 1785-1814.

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1814-1831.

CR IV - "Records of the First Church In Mendon Mass. From Jan. 1. AD. 1831." 1831-1911.

PR I - "Parish Records, Book 1." 1742-1802.

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1. See Waltham, First Parish.



PR II - Parish Records, 1802-1850.

PR III - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Parish in Mendon, 1850.") 1850-1944.

Miscellaneous records: Records of Parish Subscribers toward the New Meeting House, 1819-1822 (with financial statements to 1840); Accounts of Parish Subscribers, 1819-1825.

See Carlton A. Staples, An Address at Mendon, Mass., before the Worcester County Unitarian Conference, at the Autumnal Session, Sept. 10, 1873, on the History of the First Church in that Town (Milford, 1873).

MENDON, Separate (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on May 31, 1749, and about the time of the minister's removal in 1758, drifted briefly into the Baptist camp, before becoming extinct.<sup>1</sup>

Minister: Samuel Hovey (ord. 1749; rem. ca. 1758; d. after 1770)

No records of this church are known to be extant. See C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 244, 315.

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 260, lists this church under Milford, assuming that its surviving members were assimilated by the Baptist church in that town.

MENDON, East(erly) Precinct (see Milford).

MENDON, Second Church, Precinct, Parish (see Milford).

MENDON, South Church and Precinct (see Blackstone).

MENOTOMY Precinct (see Arlington).

#### MERRIMAC (C).

The church was gathered on May 19, 1726 as the Second (West) Church in Amesbury, the West Precinct having been incorporated the previous year.<sup>1</sup> The area became the town of Merrimac in 1876, and three years later the First Orthodox Congregational Society was incorporated, replacing the earlier West Parish Congregational Society. The newer society was in turn dissolved at the incorporation of the First Orthodox Congregational Church of Merrimac in 1894.

Ministers:	Paine Wingate	(ord. 1726; d. 1786)
	Francis Welch	(ord. 1789; d. 1793)
	David Smith	(ord. 1795; diss. 1800; d. 1837)
	Samuel Mead	(inst. 1804; d. 1818)

Ruling elders: none.

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1. Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 340, mistakenly identifies this church as the Rocky Hill Church of Amesbury, but corrects himself on p. 347.



Deacons:	Abraham Merrill	(e. 1726; d. <u>ca.</u> 1745)
	Thomas Colby	(e. 1726; d. <u>ca.</u> 1738)
	Thomas Stevens	(e. 1727/28; <u>dism.</u> 1761)
	Joseph Bartlett	(e. 1727/28; d. 1754)
	Lt. John Hoyt	(e. 1739; d. 1757)
	Capt. John Sargent	(e. 1747; d. <u>ca.</u> 1763)
	William Moulton	(e. 1758; d. <u>ca.</u> 1763)
	Capt. Stephen Sargent	(e. 1758; m. 1772)
	Thomas Rowell, Esq.	(e. 1763; d. 1790)
	Nathan Currier	(e. 1763; m. 1766)
	Lt. John Hoyt	(e. 1763; d. 1795-1807)
	Orlando Sargent	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1776)
	William Pecker	(e. 1792)
	Willis Patten	(e. 1792)

The records<sup>1</sup> are owned by the church and deposited with a local bank.

CR I - "Pain Wingate his Book. Records of the Second Church of Christ in Amesbury, which was gathered May 19, 1726." 1726-1782, with vital statistics to 1789.

VS I PUB - David W. Hoyt, The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts, With Some Related Families of Adjoining Towns and of York County, Maine. Vol. II. (Providence, 1902), pp. 498-558. Vital statistics drawn from CR I and from Wingate's private record, then in the hands of one of his descendents.

VS I PUB EIHC - "Amesbury Church Records," EIHC, LXXVII (1941), 291-293. Admissions and dismissions, 1726-1792.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1820-1832.

See Joseph Merrill, History of Amesbury Including the First Seventeen Years of Salisbury, to the Separation in 1654; and Merrimac from Its Incorporation in 1876 (Haverhill, 1880); Emily B. Smith, For Ready Reference: A Chronological Record of the Principal Events That Have Occurred in Amesbury, Massachusetts, from the Organization of the Township

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1. The Essex North Association's Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County (Boston, 1865), p. 301, remarks "the loss of a portion, and the imperfection of all the records . . . ." The lost portions now include all of Merrimac's ecclesiastical records of the nineteenth century.



of Merrimac in 1638 to 1900 (Amesbury, 1901); and the church's Manuals, published at Boston (1856) and Merrimac (1894).

METHUEN, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 29, 1729, and its parish was organized in the same year.

Ministers:	Christopher Sargeant	(ord. 1729; res. 1783; d. 1790)
	Simon F. Williams	(ord. 1786; dism. 1791; d. 1800)
	Humphrey C. Perley	(ord. 1795; dism. 1815; d. 1838)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Robert Swan	(e. 1729; d. 1747)
	William Gutterson	(e. 1729; d. 1742)
	Joseph How	(e. 1732; d. 1771)
	James Wilson	(e. 1733; d. <u>ca.</u> 1755)
	Francis Swan	(e. 1752; res. and rem. 1778)
	Ebenezer Barker	(e. 1756; m. 1770)
	James How, Jr.	(e. 1764; d. 1806)
	Samuel Cole	(e. 1771)
	John Harris	(e. 1778; res. 1783; d. 1801)
	Elijah Sargent	(e. 1778)
	Josiah Osgood	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1783; d. 1788)
	William Cross	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1792; d. 1803)
	John Huse	(e. 1796; d. 1802)
	Samuel Webster	(e. 1796; d. 1804)
	Timothy Emerson	(e. 1804; d. 1818)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Book of Methuen." (Flyleaf: "Methuen-Church-Book 1730 Christopher Sargeant Pastor A Record of y<sup>e</sup> Transactions of Sd: Chh under y<sup>e</sup> Pastoral Cr of Christopher Sargeant.") 1729-1816.



CR II - "A Book of the Records of y<sup>e</sup> first Church of Christ in Methuen, Massachusetts." 1815-1832.

CR III - "First Church Congregational Methuen, Mass.  
Record Book 1832-1852." (Flyleaf: "Records of the first  
Congregational Church Methuen.")

CR IV - Church Records, 1852-1884.

CR V - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Methuen, Mass. 1885." 1885-1924.

PR I - "Parish Records - 1781 to 1812."

Miscellaneous records: Church Registers, 1729-1922, 1894-1929; Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1840-1857; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1801-1855; Parish Tax Lists, 1856-1861; Pew Tax Lists, 1856-1899, 1885-1922; Pew Receipts, 1855-1892; Pew Deeds, 1832-1855; Proprietors Records, 1854-1855; Proprietors Accounts, 1842-1849.

METHUEN, Second (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on April 16, 1766, and the Second Parish, organized in the same year, was incorporated in 1807. The parish was dissolved in 1816, and on April 16, 1817, the Second Church merged with the First Church. Then in 1830, the Second Church was briefly revived, only to return to the First again within the decade.

Ministers: Eliphaz Chapman (ord. 1772; rem. 1777; d. 1814)  
John H. Stevens (ord. 1791; disb. 1795;  
d. 1851)  
[Josiah Hill (sett. 1832-1833)]

The fragmentary parish records reported by Frederick D. Hayward, A Short History of The First Church and Parish of Methuen, Massachusetts, 1729-1929 (Methuen, 1929), p. 15, have dropped from sight, and there is no other record of the church's lay officers. See also D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1888), I, 787.



MIDDLEBORO, Titicut Indian Church (C), extinct.<sup>1</sup>

The church was gathered ca. 1674 although missionary activity had encouraged the natives to erect a meetinghouse as early as 1665. Early in the eighteenth century, this church absorbed the membership of Lakeville's Nemasket and Assawompsett Indian churches. The Titicut church became extinct in 1760, when the surviving members began worshipping at Middleboro's North Church. See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	John Cotton, Jr.	(Indian mission on the Vineyard 1664-1667; ord. Plymouth First 1669, also ministered to two dozen Indian praying towns and churches; rem. 1697; d. 1699)
	John Sassamon <sup>2</sup>	(Punkapoag Indian; served the English during Pequot War 1637; Harvard educated; schoolmaster at Natick; secretary to King Philip. Indian preacher here and at Lakeville [Nemasket, Assawompsett]; d. 1675/76)
	Stephen	(Indian preacher here and at Lakeville [Nemasket] <u>ca.</u> 1685)
	Samuel Danforth	(ord. Taunton 1687, associated with seven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1727)
	Charles Aham	(Indian preacher <u>ca.</u> 1698)
	Peter Thacher	(ord. Middleboro 1709, associated with three Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1744)
	Nehemiah Abel	(Indian preacher; rem. by 1712)
	Thomas Sekins	(Indian preacher, rem. by 1712)
	Thomas Felix	(Indian preacher and magistrate, <u>ca.</u> 1712)
	John Simon(s)	(Indian preacher from 1698; rem. by 1714)

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1. The Indian name is variously given as "Cotuhtikut" and "Kehtehticut."

2. Sometimes given as "Wassausmon."



Joseph Joshnin (Indian preacher 1710-1718)  
 John Symons (Indian preacher 1747-1757)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

#### MIDDLEBORO, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 26, 1694, and a parish organization created about the same time. In 1744, a division over the choice of a new minister resulted in the large majority of the church voting to settle New Light Sylvanus Conant, with the parish vetoing the church's action. The church requested an ecclesiastical council, and on its advice and with its assistance, proceeded to Conant's ordination. The parish thereupon extended a call to Old Light Thomas Weld, and brought about his ordination to the ministry of the "standing party" of the church. The parish and "standing party" controlling the meeting-house, the Conant faction withdrew, erected their own meetinghouse and proceeded as a "Second Church." Within a few years, Weld's adherents became dissatisfied with his ministry, and finally effected his dismissal from his post. The two churches now moved closer together, and reunited in 1756.<sup>1</sup>

The town had been divided into two precincts in 1719, the 1694 church being located in the First or East Precinct, and the Second Precinct constituting present-day Lakeville.<sup>2</sup> The precinct nomenclature was retained at the incorporation in 1808 of the Trustees of the Funds for the Support of a Congregational Teacher of Piety, Religion and Morality in the First Precinct. The First Parish, so-called, was organized in 1868.

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1. The church's publications omit Weld from the list of ministers, tracing the ministerial continuity through Conant.

2. A Third Precinct, created in 1743, is now known as "North Middleboro."



Ministers: Samuel Fuller (ord. 1694; d. 1695)  
 Thomas Palmer (ord. 1702; disp. 1708;  
 d. 1743)  
 Peter Thacher (ord. 1709; d. 1744)  
 Thomas Weld (ord. 1745; disp. 1749;  
 d. 1755)  
 Sylvanus Conant (ord. Middleboro Second Church  
 1745; sett. over both churches  
 1748; d. 1777)  
 Joseph Barker (ord. 1781; d. 1815)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Bennett (e. and ord. 1695; d. 1718 ?)  
 Ebenezer Tinkham (d. 1718 ?)  
 Jonathan Cobb (d. 1728)  
 Samuel Barrows (e. 1724; ord. 1725; d. 1755)<sup>1</sup>  
 Ephraim Wood (e. 1724; ord. 1725; d. 1744)  
 Samuel Wood (e. 1735; ord. 1737; rem. to  
 Middleboro Second Church 1745;  
 probably served reunified  
 church 1748; d. by 1754)  
 Ebenezer Finnea (e. 1735; ord. 1737; d. 1745)<sup>2</sup>  
 Gershom Cobb (e. Middleboro Second Church  
 1745; probably served reunified  
 church 1748; rem. n.d.)  
 Benjamin Tucker (e. Middleboro Second Church  
 1745; probably served reunified  
 church 1748; d. 1781)  
 Nathan Bassett (e. 1746; did not served re-  
 unified church)  
 Benjamin Thomas (e. 1776; d. 1800)  
 Ichabod Morton (e. 1782; d. 1809)  
 Abner Bourne (e. 1796; d. 1806)  
 Perez Thomas (e. 1803; d. 1828)  
 Capt. Joshua Eddy (e. 1805; d. 1833)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Copy of the record of the 1st Church in Middlebor-  
 ough or rather the most ancient part thereof." Twelve MS

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1. An Old Light who remained with the "standing party"  
 supporting Weld.

2. Variously given as "Finney" and "Phinea." Probably a  
 New Light.



pages, copied by Ebenezer Fuller, dealing with the gathering of the church and events immediately thereafter.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "The Book of Church Records." 1707-1821.

CR III - DESTROYED by fire, Church Records, 1820-1866.

CR IV - "Records of the First Church of Middleboro." 1866-1958.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1839-1900.

See Isaac Backus, "An Historical Account of Middleborough, in the County of Plymouth," MHSC, 1st Ser., III (1794, published 1810), 143-153; Israel W. Putnam, Two Discourses on The Divine Faithfulness, as Illustrated in the History of the First Church in Middleborough, Mass. during the Period of One Hundred and Fifty Years (Boston, 1852; rep. Boston, 1854 under the title First Church in Middleborough, Mass: Mr. Putnam's Century and a Half Discourses; An Historical Account; and a Catalogue of Members); Thomas Weston, History of the Town of Middleboro, Massachusetts (Boston and New York, 1906).

MIDDLEBORO, Second (C), extinct.

This church, which began its separate existence in 1745, was in fact reunited with Middleboro's First Church in 1748, although legal reunification was delayed until 1756.

Minister: Sylvanus Conant (ord. 1745; sett. over both churches 1748; d. 1777)

Ruling elders: none.

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1. The original from which Fuller made his copy was reported lost in 1734. The copy itself was lost about the same time, and restored to the church in 1826. Since the original must have extended into the eighteenth century, it is to be regretted that Fuller did not make a complete copy.



Deacons:	Samuel Wood	(e. Middleboro First Church 1735; ord. 1737; rem. here 1745; probably served reunified church 1748; d. by 1754)
	Benjamin Tucker	(e. 1745; probably served reunified church 1748; d. 1781)
	Gershom Cobb	(e. 1745; probably served reunified church 1748; rem. n.d.)

The only records are the references to be found in MIDDLEBORO FIRST, CR II. See the secondary sources listed under that church.

#### MIDDLEBORO, North (C).

Historians have expressed some uncertainty as to whether this church represents one continuous organization from 1748 or alternatively, from 1756, or else comprises a sequence of two churches, one extinct and one still surviving.<sup>1</sup>

This northern section of Middleboro (adjoining the southern part of Bridgewater) was set off as Titicut Precinct in 1743, and so incorporated the following year. The ministerial choice of the majority of the precinct was Isaac Backus, a Connecticut Separate, who scrupled against becoming a minister of the standing order. Nonetheless, on Feb. 16, 1748, a church was gathered here, strongly committed to Separate principles.

The community was not long in dividing into three or four factions. A Baptist group, led by Ebenezer Hinds, opposed the church's practice of mixed communion with pedobaptists. The pedobaptists were divided between such as approved Backus' attitudes on church discipline, and those opposed.

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1. See Isaac Backus, A [Church] History of New England, II (Providence, 1784), pp. 206-207; III (Boston, 1796), pp. 135-137. The above reconstruction of events at Titicut owes much to the studies of John M. Bumsted, "The Pilgrims' Progress: The Ecclesiastical History of Southeastern Massachusetts, 1620-1775" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of History, Brown University, 1965).



Some evidence exists of a fourth group, pedobaptists opposed to mixed communion with Baptists.

Midway in 1753 Backus and his supporters confessed themselves censurable, and were reconciled to their pro-mixed-communion pedobaptist critics. Many of these now followed Backus into the Baptist denomination in 1756.

The present North Congregational Church appears to have been constituted in 1756 by such as did not accompany Backus; they comprised persons dismissed from the First Churches of Middleboro and Bridgewater, together with pedobaptist remnants of the 1748-1756 Separate mixed communion church, although it is uncertain whether or not a covenanting de novo was made in 1756.

Ministers:	Isaac Backus	(ord. 1748; adopted Baptist principles 1751; inst. Titicut Baptist Church 1756; d. 1806)
	Solomon Reed	(sett. 1756; d. 1785)
	David Gurney	(ord. 1787; d. 1815)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Jonathan Woods	(e. 1748; adopted Baptist principles 1749 and withdrew from church fellowship)
	Israel Washburn	(e. 1748)
	Joshua (?) Fobes	(e. 1760)
	Samuel Keith	(e. 1764; m. 1769)
	Zephaniah Willes	(e. 1766; m. 1769)
	Daniel Leach	(e. ca. 1778; m. 1793)
	Isaac Perkins	(e. 1799; m. 1808)

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "The Records of The Church of Christ, In the Joyning Borders of Bridgewater & Middleborough." 1747/48-1754. Owned and held as part of the Backus Collection by the Library of Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church, Titicut Precinct." 1756-1785.

CR I, II COPY - "Records of Mr. Isaac Backus." Contents rearranged, with explanatory notes and miscellaneous enclosures.

CR III - "A Book of Church Records." 1787-1850.

CR IV - "Records of the Congregational Church in N. Middleboro'." 1851-1890.

CR V - Church Records, 1886-1900.

PR I - "Parish Records, 1836-1907."

Miscellaneous records: Precinct Treasurer's Accounts, 1813-1927; Pewholders Records, 1876-1893.

See also S. Hopkins Emery, The History of the Church of North Middleborough, Massachusetts (Middleborough, 1876).

MIDDLEBORO, Separate (C), extinct.

A church was gathered in the Beech Woods section of Middleboro (now lying in Lakeville) on Oct. 3, 1751. Following the death of the minister in 1756, the church members joined forces with the persons gathering the Beech Woods Baptist Church.

Minister: James Mead (ord. 1751; d. 1756)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the absence of any records, only one name has survived for this church's five-year Separate Congregational phase, that of Deacon William Smith.

See Gladys DeM. Vigers, History of the Town of Lakeville, Massachusetts (n.p., 1952); C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 315.



MIDDLEBORO, Assawompsett Indian Church (see Lakeville, Assawompsett Indian Church).

MIDDLEBORO, Beech Woods Church (see Middleboro, Separate Congregational).

MIDDLEBORO, East Precinct (see Middleboro, First).

MIDDLEBORO, Nemasket Indian Church (see Lakeville, Nemasket Indian Church).

MIDDLEBOROUGH, Second Church (see Lakeville and Taunton Precinct).

MIDDLEBORO, Third Church (see Middleboro, North).

MIDDLEBORO, Titicut Precinct, Church (see Middleboro, North).

MIDDLEBOROUGH, West Precinct (see Lakeville and Taunton Precinct).

MIDDLEBOROUGH AND HALIFAX, Church (see Halifax).

MIDDLEBOROUGH AND TAUNTON PRECINCT, Society (see Lakeville and Taunton Precinct).

MIDDLEFIELD (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 18, 1783, and the First Congregational Society incorporated in the same year. The church received incorporation in 1892.

Minister: Jonathan Nash (ord. 1792; dism. 1832; d. 1834)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	David Mack	(e. 1783; d. 1845)
	Job Robbins	(e. 1783; d. 1828)
	Daniel Chapman	(m. 1794)



There are no records antedating 1792; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

VS I - "Middlefield - Novbr - 1792 - A Record of Baptisms, Deaths, and Marriages, from the 31st Octbr 1792 - Also of those who are admitted to full communion with the Church from the same date." Vital statistics only, 1792-1803. Bound inside SR I.

CR II - "A book of Records for the Church; including the articles of faith and covenant upon which the Chh first embodied; Also a record of baptisms, and admissions into the Chh -- Likewise a record of Deaths, and marriages in the Town: from the 1st January 1803." 1806-1854.

CR III - "Book of Records made for the Cong. Church in Middlefield, Vol. 2d continued from the 1st, commencing June 28th, 1854." 1854-1924.

SR I - "Clerk's Book of Records for Congregational Society in Middlefield A.D. 1832." 1832-1892.

Miscellaneous records: Register of church members and officers, compiled ca. 1900.

MIDDLE GRANVILLE Parish (see Granville, Second, West).

MIDDLETON (C).  
(Univ.), extinct.

The church was gathered on Oct. 22, 1729. In 1831, when the minister of their choice proved unacceptable to the "parish," the orthodox withdrew and organized their own Evangelical Congregational Society. The minority of the church and members of the "parish" saw to the organizing of a Congregational Society in 1832, but found themselves



unable to support the Universalist ministry of their choice. By 1846 the records and much of the church property had been turned over to the orthodox group. The Universalist society and church did not survive the nineteenth century; the Congregational church and society (incorporated as one in 1950) is the surviving descendent of the 1729 church.

Ministers: Andrew Peters (ord. 1729; d. 1756)  
 Elias Smith (ord. 1759; d. 1792)  
 Solomon Adams (ord. 1793; d. 1813)

Ruling elders: none.<sup>1</sup>

Deacons: John Berry (e. 1729; cta. 1738)  
 Samuel Symonds (e. 1729; cta. 1755)  
 Edward Putnam, Jr. (e. 1738; cta. 1755)  
 Samuel Nichols (e. 1749; cta. 1778)  
 Francis Peabody, Jr. (e. 1756; cta. 1794)  
 John Flint (e. 1778; cta. 1780)  
 Samuel Symonds (e. 1780; cta. 1792)  
 Benjamin Peabody (e. 1794; cta. 1820)  
 John Nichols (e. 1794; cta. 1821)

The records of the extinct Universalist church and society have not survived. The extant records are owned by the church, and held by the Town Clerk, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - Church Records. Vital statistics, 1729-1759; statistics and records, 1759-1832.

CR II - Church Records, 1832-1855.

CR III - Church Records, 1855-1949. Held by the church.

SR I - "Records of the Evangelical Congregational Society in Middleton. November A.D. 1831." 1831-1850.

PR II - "The Evangelical Congregational Church Parish Records of Middleton, Mass." 1849-1950. Held by the church.

Miscellaneous records: Church Contributions, 1875-1879, in volume entitled "Middletown Church Records," owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem.

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1. Four ruling elders were elected on March 9, 1820, but the records make no further mention of them; quite possibly they never assumed office.



See The Origin and History of the "Church of Christ in Middleton," with the Covenant, Confession of Faith, &c., and List of Members (Salem, 1850); Laura W. Watkins, History of the Middleton Congregational Church (Boston, 1954).

# MILFORD, First (C).

The church was gathered on April 15, 1741 as the Second or East Church in Mendon, the East Precinct being incorporated in the same year. In 1780 the precinct became the town of Milford, and the church's name was duly changed. The First Congregational Society was organized in 1815.

Ministers: Amariah Frost (ord. 1743; d. 1792)  
David Long (ord. 1801; res. 1844; d. 1850)

Ruling elders: John Jones (e. 1741)  
Josiah Adams (e. 1741)  
Deacon Nathaniel Nelson (e. 1752)  
Deacon Abraham Jones (e. 1754)  
Deacon Daniel Corbett (e. 1759)  
Deacon John Chapin, Jr. (e. 1785)

Deacons: Nathaniel Nelson (e. 1741; elev. to ruling elder 1752)  
Abraham Jones (e. 1743-1744; elev. to ruling elder 1754)  
John Chapin (e. 1749)  
Habijah French (e. 1749)  
Daniel Corbett (e. 1749; elev. to ruling elder 1759)  
Gideon Albee (e. 1763)  
John Chapin, Jr. (e. 1774; elev. to ruling elder 1785)  
Seth Nelson (e. 1786)  
Ebenezer Reed (e. 1786)  
Robert Sanders, Jr. (e. 1802)  
Nathan Chapin (e. 1802)

Church records antedating 1877 were destroyed by flooding of the storage area in 1938 and 1939; the extant records

are owned by the church and deposited at a local bank.

CR I - "Record." 1877-1944.

PR I - "A Book of Records Belonging to the Easterly Precinct in Mendon. This Book Belongs to The Second Precinct in Mendon - 1777. Vol. I." Precinct/town records, 1741-1797.<sup>1</sup>

SR II - "Records of the Congregational Parish in Milford, Massachusetts. Vol. II." 1815-1856.

SR III - "Records" "Vol. No. 3." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Congregational Society in Milford.") 1857-1882.

SR IV - "Record of the First Congregational Society in Milford." 1882-1920.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1865-1895; Parish Register, 1864.

See The Confession of Faith and Covenant of the First Congregational Church, in Milford, Mass. With a Brief Sketch of the Church, and List of Its Members. Nov. 8, 1852 (Milford, 1852); Creed and Covenant (Adopted Aug. 3, 1866) of the First Congregational Church, in Milford, Mass. Organized April 15, 1741. With a List of Its Officers and Members (Milford, 1866); One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization of the First Congregational Church, Milford, Mass., Wednesday, June 10, 1891 (Milford, 1891); 1741-1941 First Congregational Church Milford, Massachusetts Bicentennial Program April 20-27 1941 (n.p., 1941).

MILFORD, Separatist Church (see Mendon, Separate Church).

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1. Parish records for the years 1780-1815 consist in actions taken at town meetings.



## MILLBURY, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 10, 1747 as the Second Church in Sutton, the Second or North Parish having been incorporated in 1743. In 1813, with the creation of the town of Millbury, church and parish took the title First Church and Parish. The Trustees of the Parochial Funds of the Congregational Church and Parish were incorporated in 1828. The parish was dissolved in 1889, following the incorporation of the church the preceding year.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers: James Wellman (ord. 1747; dism. 1760;  
d. 1808)  
Ebenezer Chaplin (ord. 1763; dism. 1792;  
d. 1822)  
Joseph Goffe (ord. 1794; dism. 1830;  
d. 1846)

Ruling elders: Deacon Daniel Greenwood (e. 1767; d. 1776)  
Amos Singletary (e. 1768)  
Daniel Greenwood (e. 1776)<sup>2</sup>

Deacons: Thomas Gould (e. 1747; res. 1765; d. by 1769)  
Abel Chase (e. 1747; d. 1778)  
Daniel Greenwood (e. 1765; elev. to ruling elder  
1767; d. 1776)  
Ebenezer Pierce (e. 1768; res. 1787; m. 1791)  
Asa Waters (e. 1778; m. 1792)  
John Jacobs (e. 1787; m. 1792)  
John Pierce (e. 1795; res. 1828)  
Elijah Waters (e. 1802; elev. to ruling elder  
1810)

The records are owned by the church and deposited with the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.  
Not cited below, but useful is the portion of Chaplin's diary published by Henry L. Shumway, "An Old-Time Minister [Ebenezer Chaplin of Sutton Second Parish]," WSAC, V (1882), 44-66.

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1. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 316, lists this as a Separate Congregational church.

2. Four more ruling elders were elected after 1805: Oliver Bond in 1809, Deacon Elijah Waters in 1810, Samuel Waters in 1815, and Jonathan Waters in 1829.



CR I - "Second Church, North Parish in Sutton, Mass. Inc. Oct. 28, 1743. Historical Notes - Vital Records. 1747-1767. Scattered church records, fuller vital statistics.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "2nd Church in Sutton. Historical Notes, 1718-1857. Vital Records, 1764-1834." Church records, 1764-1830 (lacuna, 1792-1827).<sup>2</sup>

CR III - "First Congregational Church Millbury, Mass. Records, 1830-1884. 2nd Ch. Sutton."

PR I - "Second Church of Christ in Sutton, Mass. Records, 1743-1813. First Congregational Church in Millbury, Mass. 1828-1845." Parish records, 1743-1845 (lacuna, 1813-1828).

PR II - "First Cong'l Church in Millbury, Mass. Records, 1846-1888 ... 2nd Ch. Sutton."

1. At the time of his dismissal from the Sutton pulpit, James Wellman lodged the records with one of his own adherents, rather than turn them over to his successor, Ebenezer Chaplin, whose right to the pastorate he disputed. In 1771-1772, the church made a concerted effort to recover the records from the adherent, who finally sent them to Wellman, by now living in New Hampshire. Wellman was still of no mind to return the records until after Chaplin was dismissed, and not until 1803 did the volume find its way back to Sutton.

CR II, p. 5, claims: "Records 1760 to 1764 in small mem[orandum] book." This item has not survived.

2. The lacuna, 1792-1827, results from history's having repeated itself at the close of the second pastorate. Ebenezer Chaplin, considering himself illegally dismissed, took the second volume of church records with him in 1792. The church therefore gave one of the ruling elders the task of keeping the record of church doings. The original second book found its way back to Sutton (now Millbury) in 1827, at which time then-minister Joseph Goffe transferred the elder's record of vital statistics for the years 1792-1827 into CR II. But Goffe did not think to transcribe from the elder's record any notices of church votes, and the elder's record book was soon afterward lost.



Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1830-1840; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1746-1815, 1828-1898; Parish Order Book, 1827-1859; Parish Committee Records, 1867-1887; Parish Committee Treasurer's Accounts, 1744-1784; Records of the Trustees of the Parochial Funds, 1827-1835.

#### MILLIS, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 7, 1714 as the Church in Medway. In 1748, the town was divided into eastern and western precincts, the former containing the 1714 (First) church, the latter gathering its (Second) church in 1750.<sup>1</sup> In 1885, the East Precinct became the town of Millis, and the First Church in Medway became the (First) Church in Millis. The old parish was incorporated in 1886.

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1. The present Medway church still styles itself the Second Church in Medway.

2. Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties" (Public Document No. 52), Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897 (Boston, 1898), II, 173, reports an extinct Unitarian church under "East Medway," dating from 1715. The basis for Swan's entry lies in a short-lived withdrawal of Unitarians from the 1714 church about 1840; a church was formed, but became extinct before "East Medway" became Millis. Swan's correspondent further obscured the situation by reporting, not the date of the ancient church's gathering (1714), but that of the first minister's ordination (1715).

The confusion is compounded by a recent published report of an extinct East or First Church in Medway. (See Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints [New York, 1956], p. 347.) The confusion is eliminated once this entry is realized to belong to Millis; moreover, the records survive almost in full, not in the fragmentary form reported by Oberholzer.



Ministers: David Deming (ord. 1715; dism. 1722;  
d. 1745/46)  
Nathan Bucknam (ord. 1724; d. 1795)  
Benjamin Green (ord. colleague 1788; dism.  
1793; d. 1837)  
Luther Wright (ord. 1798; dism. 1815; d. 1858)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Peter Adams (e. 1714; d. 1723)<sup>1</sup>  
Jonathan Adams (d. 1718)  
John Partridge (e. 1724; res. 1732; d. 1743)  
Ebenezer Thompson (e. 1724; cta. by 1730)  
Peter Baulch (e. 1730; res. and rem. ca.  
1732; d. 1755)  
Samuel Partridge (e. 1731; d. 1752)  
John Barber (e. 1732; d. 1754)  
Thomas Harding (e. by 1753; d. 1754)  
Elisha Adams (e. 1754; d. 1781)  
Edward Clark, Jr. (e. 1754; res. by 1798;  
d. 1799)  
George Barber (e. 1754 (or 1756); cta. by  
1798)  
Asa Daniell (e. 1769; res. 1805; d. 1815)  
Asa Ellis (e. by 1785; cta. by 1798)  
Simon Hill (e. by 1792; res. 1814;  
d. 1821)<sup>2</sup>  
Asa Daniell, Jr. (e. 1805; cta. 1829; d. 1840)

There are no records antedating 1724; the extant records are owned and held by the church. Not cited below, but useful is Timothy A. Dickinson, "Biographical Sketch and Extracts from the Journal of Rev. Timothy Dickinson," WSAP, VI (1883), 60-89.

CR I - "First Church of Christ, Medway, Mass. Records 1724-1793. Vol. I." 1724-1787, with vital statistics to 1793.

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1. One authority lists Samuel Hill, who died in 1723, as the second deacon of the church. See E. O. Jameson, History of Medway, Mass., 1713-1885 (Millis, 1886), p. 121.

2. Jeremiah Daniel, Jr., elected a deacon in 1804, probably refused the office.



CR II - "The Records of the First Church in Medway from December 1797." 1797-1816.

CR III - "Records of 1st Church in Medway from March 1816." 1816-1837.

CR IV - "Records, First Church, Medway." 1837-1876.

CR V - Church Records, 1876-1903.

PR I - Precinct/Parish Records, 1748-1791.

PR II - Precinct/Parish Records, 1792-1816.

PR III - Parish Records, 1808, 1816-1837.

PR IV - Parish Records, 1837-1868.

PR V - "Records of First Parish, Medway. 1868." 1868-1898 (lacuna, 1898-1904).

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1798-1855, 1878-1887; Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1756, 1763, 1770, 1771, 1774, 1777, 1783, 1799, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1809, 1815, 1818, 1821, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1843, 1845, 1847, 1848, and three undated books; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1749-1791, 1793-1816, 1816-1867, 1868-1900; Parish Committee Records, 1816-1864.

MILLVILLE (see Blackstone).

MILTON, First Congregational Parish (U).  
First (C).

The church was gathered on April 24, 1678; the First Congregational Parish was incorporated in 1818. In 1834, the

orthodox withdrew from the church, organizing their own First Evangelical Congregational Church and Society, the First Congregational Parish and Church continuing under Unitarian auspices. Both churches claim the 1678 date.

Ministers:	Peter Thacher	(ord. 1681; d. 1727)
	John Taylor	(ord. 1728; d. 1750)
	Nathaniel Robbins	(ord. 1750/51; d. 1795)
	Joseph McKean	(ord. 1797; dism. 1804; d. 1818)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Thomas Swift	(ord. 1682; d. 1718)
	Roger Sumner	(ord. 1682; d. 1698)
	Ephraim Tucker	(e. 1698; ord. 1699; d. 1736)
	Lt. George Sumner	(e. and ord. 1699; d. 1715)
	Manasseh Tucker, Sr.	(e. 1716; ord. 1719; d. 1743)
	Ebenezer Wadsworth	(e. 1716; d. 1717)
	William Vose	(m. 1717)
	John Wadsworth	(e. 1718; ord. 1719; d. 1734)
	Timothy Crehore, Jr.	(e. 1733; d. 1755) <sup>1</sup>
	Nehemiah Clap	(e. 1733; d. 1743) <sup>1</sup>
	Benjamin Wadsworth	(e. 1743 ?; m. 1745; d. 1771)
	William Tucker	(d. 1771)
	Nathan Tucker	(d. 1776)
	Josiah Howe	(d. 1792)
	Ebenezer Tucker	(d. 1797)
	Cornelius Gulliver	(m. 1797; d. 1808)
	John Crehore	(m. 1797; d. 1808) <sup>2</sup>
	David Tucker	(e. 1798; d. 1825) <sup>2</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

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1. Nathaniel Houghton, elected a deacon in 1743, probably refused the post.

2. The fragmentary nature of the records makes it impossible to tell if any of the following deacons were elected before 1806: William Vose (d. 1813), Isaac Tucker (d. 1822), Amariah Tucker (d. 1825), John Vose (d. 1825).



CR I - "Milton Records." Church records, 1681-1797, collected from scattered fragments in 1798; original records, 1798-1918.

CR I PHOTOSTAT I - "Milton Church Records, 1681-1754." Photostat of portions of CR I. Owned and held by the local library.

CR I PHOTOSTAT II - "Milton Church Records, 1681-1918." Photostat of portions of CR I. Owned and held by the local library.

CR I PUB - William B. Trask (ed.), "Milton (Mass.) Church Records. - 1678 - 1754," NEHGR, XXII (1868), 259-267, 440-444, XXIII (1869), 13-20, 254-261, 445-450, XXIV (1870), 43-49. Some details omitted.

PR I - "Records." "First Congregational Parish in Milton." 1886-1917.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Committee Records, 1889-1910.

See also the manuscript diaries of the Rev. Mr. Peter Thacher, for the years 1678/79-1681/82 and 1681/82-1698/99, with photostat, microfilm and typescript copies of the same, owned and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, and cited in this paper as Barnstable West, Thacher Diaries I & II. Some portions have been published by A. K. Teale (ed.), The History of Milton, Mass. 1640 to 1887 (Boston, 1887), pp. 641-657; and by Edward P. Hamilton, "The Diary of a Colonial Clergyman, Peter Thacher of Milton," MHSP, LXXI (1953-1957), 50-63. Another volume of Thacher's diary provided the vital statistics for Edward D. Harris' communication, "Rev. Peter Thacher's Record of Marriages at Milton," NEHGR, XXXVI (1882), 19-20, 303-304, XXXVIII (1884), 26-29; the location of the original of this volume is unknown.

MONATIQUOT (see Braintree, First).

## MONSON (C).

The church was gathered on June 23, 1762; the First Parish was organized in 1830.

Ministers: Abishai Sabin (ord. 1762; dism. 1771; d. 1782)  
Jesse Ives (inst. 1773; d. 1805)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Colton (e. 1763; res. 1766; d. 1786)  
Joseph Craft (e. 1763; d. 1777)  
Benjamin Munn, Sr. (e. 1767; d. 1822)  
Abijah Newell (e. 1773; d. 1807)<sup>1</sup>  
Abel Goodell (e. 1773; d. 1809)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "The Old Church Records of the Congregational Church, Monson, Mass. 1762-1774." Photostat; original in envelope at the rear of the volume.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1774-1789.

CR III - "Church Records." 1789-1843.

CR IV - "Record of the Congregational Church in Monson, Vol. 2, Commencing in August, 1843." 1843-1858.<sup>2</sup>

CR V - "Church Records, Monson, 1857." 1857-1871.

CR VI - "This Book is to be Kept for the Records of the Church." 1871-1900.

PR I - "Records, First Parish, Monson." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Parish in Monson, Commencing April 1830." 1830-1886.

PR II - Parish Records, 1886-1947.

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1. Sometimes given as "Newhall."

2. At the time CR III was begun, CR I was believed lost; hence, CR IV is described as "Vol. 2."



## MONTAGUE, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 22, 1752 as the Church in the Second (North) Precinct of Sunderland,<sup>1</sup> the precinct having been set off in 1751. In 1754, the precinct became the town of Montague, and the church's name was accordingly changed. The First Congregational Society was organized in 1826; in 1910 church and society were incorporated as one body.

Minister: Judah Nash (ord. 1752; d. 1805)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the absence of early church records, almost nothing is known of the lay officers of this church. A Deacon Mattoon, probably of Sunderland, assumed a leading role in the formation of the Montague church in 1751-1752, but it is not known if he became a member and officer here.

There are no records antedating 1807; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited with a Greenfield bank.

CR I - "Church Records of the 1st Congregational Church In Montague." 1807-1873.

CR II - Church Records, 1874-1910.

PR I - "Book of Records for the first Congregational Society in Montague - No. 1st - 1826." 1826-1853.

PR II - "Book of Records for the first Congregational Society in Montague April 1854." 1854-1910.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1899-1920; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1882-1899.

See Confession and Faith and Covenant of the First Congregational Church in Montague, Mass. (Greenfield, 1871; rep. 1905); The First Congregational Church of Montague Massachusetts. July 29, 1751 July 29, 1951 (n.p., 1951).

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1. Sunderland itself was for many years known as "Swampfield."



## MONTEREY (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 25, 1750 as the Church in Tyringham, although the town of Tyringham was not incorporated until 1762. The First Congregational Society in Tyringham was incorporated in 1809. In 1847, part of Tyringham was set off as the town of Monterey, and the 1750 church and its society became the First in the new town.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers: Adonijah Bidwell (inst. 1750; d. 1784)  
 Joseph Avery (inst. 1789; dism. 1808;  
 d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Jackson (e. 1753; d. 1757)  
 Thomas Orton (e. 1753; d. 1790)  
 William Hale (e. 1764; d. 1807)  
 David Talcott (m. 1783)  
 Nathan Abbot (e. 1790-1802; rem. 1804; d. 1809)  
 Justus Battle (e. 1802; rem. 1823)  
 Joseph Chapin (e. 1804; d. 1838)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Record." Fragmentary records, 1750-1842, the earlier parts copied from documents no longer extant.

CR I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Monterey, Mass. Records of the Rev. Mr. Bidwell." Largely vital statistics, duplicating CR I in part, 1750-1777, but copied (1902) from Bidwell's "home book" rather than CR I. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1842-1854.

CR III - "Record of the Congregational Church of Monterey. December 26th, 1854." 1854-1907.

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1. Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties" (Public Document No. 52), Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897 (Boston, 1898), II, 185, lists the church as an extinct Tyringham church, and 92, as a living Monterey church. Both, of course, refer to the same church.



Miscellaneous records: Church Register, begun 1861, of baptisms and admissions, 1750-1957/1960.

See History of the First Congregational Society in Monterey, Mass., with Brief History of the Town and Account of the Anniversary Exercises October 10 and 11, 1900 (Great Barrington, Mass., 1900).

MONTGOMERY (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Jan. 30, 1797, and dissolved in 1868.

Minister: Seth Noble (ord. 1801; dism. 1806; d. 1807)

Ruling elders and deacons: no records of the church having survived, nothing is known of the lay officers of this organization.

See the work published anonymously by Emerson Davis, Sketches of the Churches and Pastors in Hamden County, Mass.; and also, An Address Delivered to the Pastors, by Rev. T. M. Cooley, D.D. at Mettineague, September 13, 1853 (Westfield, 1854); Lewis B. Allyn, Ancient Landmarks of Montgomery, Massachusetts (Westfield, 1920).

MURRAYFIELD, Church (see Chester).

MYRIFIELD, Church (see Rowe).



NANTUCKET, Occawan (and other) Indian Churches (C), extinct.

The sources do not clearly distinguish the several Nantucket Indian churches from each other, nor carefully discriminate among "churches," "assemblies," "meetinghouses," and "praying towns." It is therefore necessary to treat the island native churches in a single entry.

Tradition assigns the organization of the first Indian church to Hiacoomes, the Vineyard Indian preacher, dating the event ca. 1665-1670. By 1674,<sup>1</sup> there were three praying towns and the one church: Occawan<sup>1</sup> (where the church met), Wammasquid and Squatesit. Indian preacher John Gibbs (Assasammoogh) ministered primarily at Occawan; the other praying towns were served by Indian preachers Joseph, Samuel and Caleb.

By 1694, Nantucket had five native "assemblies" and three churches (one of them Baptist). A report of 1698 adds the names of the Indian preachers then active: Job Muckemuck (successor to the deceased John Gibbs at Occawan), John Asherman, Quequenah, Netowah, Peter Hayt, Wunnohson, Daniel Spotso, Codpoganut and Noah.

Between 1710 and 1718, the native preacher at Occawan was Jonahauwasuit; others associated with this church were Jonas Asosit (Hasaway) ca. 1718 and Benjamin Tarshema ca. 1770. There is reason to believe that Tarshema may have been preceded by Zacchary Hoite. Another (unidentified) Nantucket Indian church was served ca. 1763-1792 by the father and son, James and Joshua Memack. By 1800, the Indian churches of Nantucket were extinct.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church. See also Obed Macy, The History of Nantucket; Being a Compendious Account of the First Settlement of the Island by the English, together with the Rise and Progress of the Whale Fishery; and Other Historical Facts Relative to Said Island and Its Inhabitants: In Two Parts (Boston, 1835); Robert A. Douglas-Lithgow, Nantucket: A History (New York and London, 1914).

Ministers: prior to the gathering of an Indian church on Nantucket, the natives were ministered to by Thomas Mayhew, Sr., ca. 1665-d. 1681, and John Cotton, Jr., ca. 1665-1667. Both were primarily associated with the Vineyard Indian mission, however.

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1. Variously given as "Oggawame" and "Okorwaw."



Peter Folger	(schoolmaster to Vineyard Indians 1654; rem. to Nantucket 1663; d. 1690)
John Mayhew	(sett. West Tisbury 1673; associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1688/89)
Experience Mayhew	(Indian mission of the Vineyard 1694-d. 1758; associated with nine Indian praying towns and churches)
Samuel Wiswall	(missionary to Vineyard Indians 1710-1712; ord. Edgartown 1713; continued missionary labors; d. 1746)
Timothy White	(unord., sett. Nantucket 1725 as S.P.G.F.P. superintendent of religious work among the Indians, preacher to the English church; rem. 1750; d. 1765)
Zachariah Mayhew	(ord. Chilmark 1767, associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1806)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

#### NANTUCKET, First (C).

The date of the church's gathering is uncertain, although the limited evidence points to the years 1725-1728.<sup>1</sup> In 1725, Timothy White (who had come as S.P.G.F.P. superintendent of religious work among the Indians) was settled as preacher to the English congregation, a post he held

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1. There is no documentation for the frequently cited claim, first made in The Confession of Faith and Covenant, of the First Congregational Church, in Nantucket (Boston, 1850), that the church was fully organized in 1711, when the first meetinghouse was erected.

until his removal in 1750. Unordained, White depended on the occasional visits of clerics like Rev. Joseph Baxter of Medfield to provide administration of the sacraments. The church reorganized in 1767, at the coming of Rev. Bezaleel Shaw.

The Proprietors of the Meeting House were incorporated in 1811; the church was incorporated in 1895.

Ministers:	Timothy White	(unord., sett. Nantucket 1725-1750 as S.P.G.F.P. superintendent of religious work among the Indians, preacher to the English church; rem. 1750; d. 1765)
	Joseph Mayhew	(sett. 1761 as acting minister, probably not ord.; d. 1766)
	Bezaleel Shaw	(ord. 1767; d. 1796)
	James Gurney	(ord. 1799; disp. 1819; d. 1839)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: fragmentary list, due to the lack of church records.

John Woodbury	(d. 1799)
Samuel Barrett	(seceded 1799)
Josiah Coffin	(e. 1801; d. 1811)
Capt. Wilson Rawson	(e. 1802; d. 1836)

The records are owned by the church and deposited with a local bank.

VS I - Baptisms, 1728-1749. Twelve MS pages, among miscellaneous papers in unmarked envelope.

CR II - Church Records, comprising a copy of part of VS I, fragmentary records, 1767-1796, full records, 1799-1828.

CR III - Church Records, 1835-1842.

CR IV - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Nantucket, 1841." 1841-1891.

VS IV - "Baptisms." Baptisms and admissions, 1847-1868.

CR V - "First Cong'l Church, Nantucket, Mass., 1892." 1892-1927.



Miscellaneous records: "A Record of the Secular transactions of the First Congl Church. Nantucet. Aug. 1822," noting both ecclesiastical and prudential matters ca. 1822; "Records of the Examining Committee," noting two hundred and thirty-seven examinations and relations of candidates for church membership, 1841-1847; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1841-1909.

See Myron S. Dudley, Churches and Pastors of Nantucket, Mass., From the First Settlement to the Present Time: 1659-1902 (Boston, 1902), being an expanded version of "Two Centuries of Churches and Pastors in Nantucket, Mass.," NEHGR, LVI (1902), 17-26.

NARRAGANSETT NO. 2, Church (see Westminster).

NARRAGANSETT NO. 6, Church (see Templeton).

NASHUAKETMUCK Indian Church (see Chilmark, Nashuakemmuck Indian Church).

NATICK, First Indian Church (C), extinct.

At John Eliot's request, in 1651 the General Court granted a large area in Natick to the Nonantum Indians. The Indians were encouraged to set up a civil government with their own officials, and in 1660 a church was gathered among them.<sup>1</sup> This church was dissolved soon after 1698.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	John Eliot	(ord. Roxbury 1632, associated with sixteen Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1690)
	John Eliot, Jr.	(Indian mission, 1657-1663; ord. Newton 1664; d. 1668)
	James Speen	(Indian preacher, 1669-1675)
	Anthony	(Indian preacher, 1669-1675)
	Daniel Gookin, Jr.	(ord. Sherborn 1685, preached at Natick; d. 1718)
	Daniel Tokkohwompait	(Indian preacher, 1690-1700)
	John Neesnummin	(Indian preacher, 1709-1719)
	Daniel Baker	(ord. Sherborn 1712, preached at Natick; d. 1731)
	John Thomas	(Indian preacher, also associated with Littleton [Nashobah], 1714-1727)
	Oliver Peabody	(sett. 1721; ord. at Cambridge 1729; sett. English and Indian Church 1729; d. 1752)

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1. Frederick L. Weis, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," *CSMP*, XXXVIII (1947-1951), 179, holds that the church was furnished with a full complement of clergy and lay officers. In disagreement is Charles E. Banks, *The History of Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1911), I, p. 245, claiming that only the Vineyard Indian churches had lay officers.



As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick's English and Indian church, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.<sup>1</sup>

NATICK, English and Indian Church (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Dec. 3, 1729 with an eye to accomodating the English now living in Natick, and in place of the extinct Indian church of 1660. The English and Indian church was extinct by 1803.<sup>2</sup>

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers: Oliver Peabody (sett. 1721; ord. at Cambridge 1729; sett. here 1729; d. 1752)  
Stephen Badger (ord. 1753; cta. 1803; d. 1808)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Ephraim (e. 1730; d. 1761)  
Ebenezer Felch (e. 1731; m. 1747)  
Nathan Chickering (e. 1735; m. 1744)  
Micah Whitney (m. 1759-1765)  
----- Jones (m. 1774)

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1. Peabody reported in 1721: "It must be observed that, after my most diligent Inquiry and Search; I Can Find No Record of Any thing referring to the former church at Natick; Nor who were Members of it: or baptized, till my coming to the Town." NATICK, English and Indian Church, CR I, p. 1.

2. From a letter of Stephen Badger historians have erroneously concluded that Peabody's church dissolved after his death, to be replaced by a second English and Indian church shortly before Badger's ordination. A careful reading of the letter (MHSC, V [1798], 32-45) does not sustain such a conclusion; Badger's statement that "immediately previous to my settling in this place, a church was gathered," must be read consistently with his reference to Peabody as "my immediate predecessor" (pp. 43, 44). For erroneous readings, see William Bigelow, History of the Town of Natick, Mass. from the Days of the Apostolic Eliot, MDCL, to the Present Time, MDCCCXX (Boston, 1830); Samuel Sewall, "A Brief Survey of the Congregational Churches and Ministers of the County of Middlesex...", American Quarterly Register, XI (1838-1839), 248, 255-257; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and the



The records are owned and held by Natick's Congregational Church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Records of the Church of Natick, and other thing's Referring to the State of Religion there Since I have been Employed in the work of the ministry Among the Indians, Faithfully made by me Oliver Peabody Pastor of the Church of Natick." Church records, 1721/1729-1745, 1794; vital statistics: baptisms, 1721/1729-1798; admissions, 1729-1798; deaths of Indian members, 1721/1729-1771; owners of the covenant, scattered entries.

CR I COPY - "The Peabody and Badger Records, Transcribed from the Original, 1858." Owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.<sup>1</sup>

#### NATICK (C).

The church was gathered in February of 1802, but no minister was settled until 1806. The Trustees of the Natick Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1812, and the First Parish in 1820.

Ministers: none until 1806.

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Abel Perry (e. 1802; res. 1822; d. 1841)  
William Goodenow (e. 1802; res. 1828; d. 1837)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records 1802-1833." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church of Christ, in Natick. Freeman Sears. - Pastor of said Church. April 22<sup>th</sup> AD 1807. to 1833.")

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Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 260; idem, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," CSMP, XXXVIII (1947-1951), 179.

1. Another copy is reported to be owned and held by the South Natick Historical Society, Natick.



CR II - "Third Book of the Records of the First Congregational Church of Christ Natick Mass. 1833-1864."<sup>1</sup>

CR III - "Church Records 1864-1901." (Flyleaf: "Fourth Book of the Records of the First Congregational Church of Christ Natick Mass. 1864-1901.")

VS - "Chronological List of Members since 1802." 1802-1920.

PR I - "Records of the first Congregational Parish in Natick AD 1820." 1820-1853.

PR II - "Parish Treasurer 1852-1890." (Flyleaf: "Continuation of the Records of the First Congregational Parish in Natick AD 1852.")

PR II DUP - "Church Records by William Drury 1856 to 1868." Sketchy parish records and some parish financial accounts.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1867-1906; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1822-1862, 1862-1891, 1890-1891, 1893-1906; Records of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, 1814-1914; Accounts of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, 1812-1914.

NAUSET (see Eastham and Orleans).

NEEDHAM, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on March 20, 1720. The First or East Parish in Needham was incorporated in 1778.

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1. Called the "Third Book," because the recording clerk counted the Peabody-Badger records of Natick's Indian and English Church as the first volume.

Ministers: Jonathan Townsend (ord. 1720; d. 1762)  
 Samuel West, D.D. (ord. 1764; dism. 1789;  
 d. 1808)  
 Stephen Palmer (ord. 1792; d. 1821)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Jeremiah Woodcock (e. 1720; res. 1729/30;  
 d. 1752)<sup>1</sup>  
 Timothy Kingsbury (e. 1720; deposed 1746/47;  
 d. 1760)  
 Eleazar Kingsbury (e. 1729/30; deposed  
 1747/47; d. 1767)  
 Josiah Newell, Jr. (e. 1746/47; res. 1783;  
 d. 1792)  
 Joshua Ellis (e. 1746/47; rem. 1759;  
 d. ca. 1780)  
 John Fisher (e. 1746/47; d. 1788)  
 Isaac Shepard (e. 1783; d. 1819)  
 Col. William McIntosh (e. 1790; res. 1803;  
 d. 1813)  
 Lt. Col. Silas Alden (e. 1803; d. 1826)

The records are owned by the church and deposited at a local bank.

CR I - "The Records of the Church of Christ in Needham - Kept by Jonathan Townsend for his own Service, Use, & Satisfaction. 1720." 1720-1812.

VS BIRTH - George K. Clarke, "Births Recorded by the Rev. Jonathan Townsend, A.M., Minister of the First Church in Needham, 1749-1762," NEHGR, LVI (1902), 141-149.

VS BAP - George K. Clarke, "Baptisms Recorded by the Ministers of the First Church in Needham, 1720-1821," NEHGR, LVII (1903), 21-30, 144-153, 252-263, 370-382.

VS MAR - George K. Clarke, "Marriages Recorded by the Ministers of the First Church in Needham, Massachusetts. 1738-1811," NEHGR, LV (1901), 258-267, 391-400.

VS MORT - George K. Clarke, "Deaths Recorded by the Rev. Jonathan Townsend, A.M., Minister of the First Church in Needham, 1749-1762," NEHGR, LVI (1902), 265-270.

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1. See George K. Clarke, "The Deacons of the First Church in Needham," DHR, III (1892), 73-76.



CR II - "Records of the First Church in Needham, March 1720 to November 1911 by Jonathan Townsend." Poorly edited copy of CR I, with further records to 1911.

PR I - "Needham First Parish Records, from 1778 to 1809. Book No. 1."

PR II - "Needham First Parish Records, from 1809 to 1840. Book No. 2."

PR III - "Needham First Parish Records, from 1840 to 1859. Book No. 3."

PR PUB - George K. Clarke, "Notes from the Records of the First Parish in Needham," DHR, III (1892), 35-37, 125-129, IV (1893), 27-31, 122-125. Items excerpted from parish records, 1778-1842.

PR IV - "Needham First Parish Records, from 1859 to 1889. Book No. 4."

PR V - "Book V. Needham First Parish Records." 1889-1899.

PR VI - "Needham First Parish Records." 1899-1915.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1803, 1805, 1806, 1820; Parish Collector's Accounts, 1889-1896.

NEEDHAM, East Parish (see Needham, First).

NEEDHAM, West Precinct, Parish and Church (see Wellesley).

NEMASKET Indian Church (see Lakeville, Nemasket Indian Church).

NEW BEDFORD, First Unitarian Church (U).  
First Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered in 1708,<sup>1</sup> as the Church of Christ in Dartmouth. Its parish, the Second in Dartmouth, was incorporated in 1747.<sup>2</sup> In 1787, the Second Parish (sometimes called "Precinct") was made the town of New Bedford, and the church's title was accordingly changed.

In 1795, the parish voted to erect a new meetinghouse at New Bedford Village, leaving standing the older meetinghouse at "the Head of the River" (Acushnet). Rev. Samuel West was instructed to divide his time between the constituencies of the two meetinghouses. In 1803, West resigned his post, and no settled ministry was had at the Acushnet meetinghouse from that time until 1828-1829.

Meanwhile, Bedford Precinct was incorporated in 1808, embracing the Village and immediate environs. When (in 1810) the orthodox majority of the church withdrew to reorganize and form their own self-sustaining North Congregational Society, the Unitarian party, being a majority of the parish, retained control of the Village meetinghouse, settling a new minister in 1812. The Unitarians' First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1824.

In 1828-1829, the remnant of the church living at Acushnet (some four survivors of West's church) reorganized. Today, as the First Congregational Church, this body also lays

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1. William J. Potter, The First Congregational Society in New Bedford, Massachusetts: Its History as Illustrative of Ecclesiastical Revolution (New Bedford, 1889), p. 18, reports second-hand knowledge of manuscript evidence among the Stiles Papers at Yale University, that the church was not "organized" until 1716.

2. The Indian Congregational Church in Dartmouth's First Precinct became extinct ca. 1730; no other Congregational Church was organized in present-day Dartmouth until 1807.



claim to the 1708 date,<sup>1</sup> arguing that the voting of a meetinghouse at the Village in 1795 was effectually an act of secession from the ancient parish.

Ministers:	Samuel Hunt	(appointed minister to Dartmouth by the General Court 1708; d. 1728/29)
	Richard Pierce	(sett. 1733; d. 1749)
	Israel Cheever	(ord. 1753; disp. 1759; d. 1811)
	Samuel West, D.D.	(ord. 1761; res. 1803; d. 1807)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early records, the only lay officers known are Deacons John Chaffee and Jireh Swift, mentioned 1794-1795 in FAIRHAVEN, CR I.

The records antedating the nineteenth century have long been lost;<sup>2</sup> the extant records are owned and held by the two surviving churches, and are separately listed here.

Records owned and held by the First Unitarian Church.

CR I - "Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Book of Records of the Third Church retaining their Connection with the Third Congregational Society in New Bedford or Bedford Precinct.") 1811-1900.

SR I - "Records of the 1st Cong. Society. Book II. From 1838 to 1884."<sup>3</sup>

1. The Congregational claim is urged by S. C. Bushnell in the anonymously published Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Origin of the First Congregational Church, Lunds Corner, New Bedford, Mass. 1696-1946 (n.p., 1946). The Unitarian position was stated earlier by Potter, op. cit., who also disposes of the date favored by the Congregational body (1696) as a local tradition of doubtful reliability.

2. Potter, op. cit., passim. In treating West's pastorate, Potter hints at the survival of fragmentary church records for that period, but the present location of these records, if still extant, is unknown.

3. The Society Treasurer's Accounts for 1838-1867 is listed as "Book I" of Society Records.



SR II - "Records of the 1st Congl. Society Book III From 1885." 1885-1902.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts (Pew Assessments and Conveyances), 1838-1867; Proprietors' Committee Records, 1833-1839; Proprietors Register, 1838; Subscribers Register, 1836; Pew Deeds, 1839-1874, 1872-1878.

Records owned and held by the First Congregational Church.

CR I - "No 1 Records 1st Congl. Church New Bedford." 1828-1831.

CR II - "No 2 Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the 1st Congregational Church of New Bedford Mass first organized in the township of Dartmouth 1696 and Reorganized in New Bedford March 23. 1828.") 1828-1879.

CR III - "Records of the 1st Congregational Church of New Bedford Mass. from Oct. 1st 1870 and The commencement of the pastorate of Rev. Wm. B. Hammond." 1870-1890.

CR IV - "Records of First Congregational Church, New Bedford, Mass. From March 23d., 1828 to July 2d., 1890. (Condensed from the Original Records.) Full Records from July 2d., 1890, to Jan. 4, 1920."

SR I - "Records for the Congregational Society at the Head of Accushnett River = New Bedford = Masstts." 1829-1914.

Miscellaneous records: Precinct Treasurer's Accounts, 1785-1854/1883; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1872-1909.

NEW BEDFORD, Second Church (see Fairhaven).



## NEW BRAINTREE (C).

The church was gathered on April 18, 1754, and the New Braintree Congregational Parish was organized in 1843.

Ministers: Benjamin Ruggles (inst. 1754; d. 1782)  
 Daniel Foster (ord. 1778; d. 1795)  
 John Fiske, D.D. (ord. 1796; d. 1855)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early records, nothing is known of the lay officers of this church.

With the exception of the book then in use, the church and parish records were destroyed by fire in 1911.

CR I - "Records of the Congregational Church of New Braintree Commencing with the ministry of the Revd. John H. Gurney." 1856-1947.

See A Manual of The Congregational Church in New Braintree, Massachusetts 1907 (North Brookfield, 1907).

NEWBURY, First (C).<sup>1</sup>

The church was gathered in 1635, possibly on May 6, at the ordination of the pastor and teacher. The First Precinct

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1. The correct identification of the seven churches in this complex requires a brief sketch of the area. The town of Newbury was founded in 1635; its First Church was gathered the same year. A Second Church was gathered in 1698, a Third in 1726, a Fourth in 1731, and a Fifth in 1762.

In 1764, Newburyport was set off as an independent town. The Third Church (1726) in Newbury became Newburyport First; the Fifth Church (1762) in Newbury became Newburyport Second. Two more churches were added in Newburyport prior to 1805: Newburyport Third (1768) and Newburyport Fourth (1793). In 1820, another section of Newbury was made the town of West Newbury. The Second Church (1698) in Newbury became West Newbury First; the Fourth Church (1731) in Newbury became West Newbury Second. After 1820, the only Congregational church in Newbury antedating 1805 was the ancient First Church of 1635.



was incorporated in 1711, and the First Parish in 1725.  
The Proprietors of the Meeting House were organized in 1868.

Ministers:	James Noyes	(ord. teacher 1635; d. 1656)
	Thomas Parker	(ord. pastor 1635; d. 1677)
	John Woodbridge	(sett. 1663; res. 1673; d. 1695)
	John Richardson	(sett. 1673; ord. teacher 1675; d. 1696)
	Christopher Toppan, D.D.	(ord. 1696; d. 1747)
	John Tucker, D.D.	(ord. 1745; d. 1792)
	Abraham Moore	(ord. 1796; d. 1801)
	John S. Popkin, D.D.	(inst. 1804; dism. 1815; d. 1852)

Ruling elders: none after 1683.

Deacons: due to the lack of early records, nothing is known of the lay officers of this church prior to 1683. The following list of deacons has been compiled from secondary sources written before the disappearance of the later records.

Richard Knight	(d. 1683)
Nicholas Noyes	(e. 1684; d. 1701)
Robert Long	(e. 1684; d. 1690)
Tristram Coffin	(e. 1684; d. 1704)
William Noyes	(e. by 1693; e. deacon of Newburyport First 1726; m. 1731)
Abiel Somerby	(e. deacon Newburyport First 1726; m. 1731)
Cutting Noyes	(d. 1734)
Nathaniel Coffin	(e. by 1709; d. 1748)
Stephen Jaques, Jr.	(e. 1725; d. 1779)
Joshua Moody	(e. 1725; d. by 1745)
Samuel Moody	(e. 1730; d. 1766)
James Noyes	(e. 1730; d. 1745)
Daniel Knight	(e. 1747; d. 1768)
Joseph Morse	(e. 1747; d. 1773)
Daniel Hale	(e. 1766; d. 1799)
Silas Pearson	(e. 1769; d. 1804)
Nathaniel Little, Jr.	(e. 1804; d. 1835)
Ezra Hale	(e. 1804; d. 1846)



The church records antedating 1674 were reported lost in the Essex North Association's Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County (Boston, 1865), pp. 340-345. The manual published at Newbury in 1896 under the title Covenant, Articles of Faith and Rules of the First Church in Newbury, with a Catalogue of Its Members and an Account of Its Pastors, reported the records from 1674 then in existence. Today, however, no records can be found antedating 1943, other than vital statistics extracted from histories and manuals of the church.

In addition to the secondary sources just noted, see the Joshua Coffin MS Book owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston (data on Newbury councils of 1669-1670); John S. Popkin, A Sermon, Preached May 4, 1806, The Last Time of Assembling in the Old Meeting-House, in the First Parish of Newbury (Newburyport, 1806); Caleb Cushing, The History and Present State of the Town of Newburyport (Newburyport, 1826); Names of the Living Members of the First Church in Newbury, October, 1834. To Which Is Prefixed a Chronological Account of Its Pastors (Newburyport, 1834); Joshua Coffin, A Sketch of the History of Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury, from 1635 to 1845 (Boston, 1845); George D. Wildes, An Oration Before the Historical and Antiquarian Society of Newbury, Essex County, Massachusetts, September 11th, 1878, Commemorative of the Settlement of Newbury, A.D. 1635 (New York, 1878); Celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of Newbury, June 10, 1885 (Newburyport, 1885); John J. Currier, History of Newbury, Mass.: 1635-1902 (Boston, 1902); Eliza A. Little and Lucretia L. Ilsley (eds.), The First Parish, Newbury, Massachusetts, 1635-1935 (Newburyport, 1935); The Heritage of the First Church in Newbury, Gathered in 1635, Newbury, Massachusetts (Newburyport, 1960). The 1834 Names contains the pre-1805 data included in the manual entitled Covenant, Articles of Faith and Rules of the First Church in Newbury and published at Newburyport in 1859, again at Newbury in 1896, and still again at Newburyport in 1897.

NEWBURY, Fifth Church and Parish (see Newburyport, Fifth Church of Newbury).

NEWBURY, Fourth Church and Parish (see West Newbury, Second).

NEWBURY, Fourth Parish (see Newburyport, Fifth Church of Newbury).

NEWBURY, Second Precinct, Parish and Church (see West Newbury, First).

NEWBURY, Third Church and Parish (see Newburyport, First).

NEWBURY, Third Church and Parish (see West Newbury, Second).

NEWBURY, Westerly Part of First Parish (see Newburyport, Fifth Church of Newbury).



NEWBURY FALLS Parish (see Byfield).

NEWBURYPORT, First Religious Society (U).

The church was gathered on Jan. 12, 1726 as the Third Church in Newbury. When Newburyport became a town (1764), the church took the title of First Church of Newburyport. Its First Religious Society received incorporation in 1794. During the first pastorate, New Light members withdrew to form the First Presbyterian Church in Newburyport.<sup>1</sup> A similar secession in 1768 saw the formation of the Third Church in Newburyport.

Ministers: John Lowell (ord. 1726; d. 1767)  
 Thomas Cary (ord. 1768; d. 1808)  
 John Andrews (ord. colleague 1788; dism. 1830;  
 d. 1845)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Deacon William Noyes (e. 1726; m. 1731)<sup>2</sup>  
 Deacon Abiel Somerby (e. 1726; m. 1731)<sup>2</sup>  
 ---- Beck (m. 1737-1741)  
 Edward Emerson (e. 1728; m. 1741)  
 Daniel Coffin (e. 1737; m. 1783)  
 Abiel Somerby, Jr. (e. 1737; m. 1744)  
 Thomas Moody (e. 1748; d. by 1797)  
 John Kent, Jr. (e. 1748; m. 1777)

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1. Mention should be made of a file of MS papers and published pamphlets, owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston, relating to the New Light separation. The file is somewhat misleadingly catalogued "Newbury, Mass. FIRST CHURCH THIRD CHURCH Papers relating to separation of members from, and organization of a new church 1743-46. mss."

C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 100-101, 316, notes that the separation began in 1742.

2. Noyes and Somerby had previously been deacons of Newbury's First Church.



Nathaniel Newman	(e. 1783; m. 1799) <sup>1</sup>
William Farnum	(e. 1804)
Benjamin Abbot	(e. 1804; rem. 1817)

The records are owned by the church and deposited at a local bank, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Church Records compiled by Rev. John Lowell Volume I." (Flyleaf: "Records belonging to the third Church of Christ in Newbury Transcribed from Books and Papers, collected, examin'd and compared, by John Lowell Pastor AD 1737 & continued.") 1725-1768, with some vital statistics to 1816.

CR II - "Church Records compiled by Rev. Thomas Cary Rev. John Andrews. Volume II. 1763-1831." (Back flyleaf: "Records belonging [to] the First Church in Newburyport. Vol 2d Continued from a former Vol. By John Lowell, Pastor. Continued by Thomas Cary the Second Pastor. Continued by John Andrews The Third Pastor. Continued in a 3d Volume by Thos. B. Fox - Fourth Pastor.")

VS I - "Newbury Church Records," EIHC, LIX (1923), 85-89. Admissions and dismissions, 1726-~~1816~~.

CR III - "Church Records compiled by Rev. Thomas Fox. Volume 3. 1831-1889." (Flyleaf: "Records &c of the First Church in Newburyport. Vol. III. Commenced Aug. 3d. 1831. by Thomas B. Fox. Fourth Pastor of Said Church.")

PR I - "Records of the Parish 1725-1767 Book 1." (Flyleaf: "The Book Belongs to the Third Parish in Newbury.")

PR II - "Records of the Parish 1768-1818 Book 2."

SR III - "First Religious Society Records April 22d 1819 to Feby 25th 1850 Book 3." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Religious Society. 1819.")

SR IV - "First Society Records Reports of Parish Meetings 1850-1925 Book 5."

PROP I - "Records of the Parish [sic] 1794 to 1843 Book 2A." (Flyleaf: "Book of Records of the Proprietors of the House of Public Worship of the first Religious Society in Newburyport.")

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1. It is not certain if the Deacon Parker Noyes who died in 1787 was an officer of this church.



PROP II - "First Religious [Society ?] Reports of Parish [sic] Meetings 1844-1850." Proprietors records.

Miscellaneous records: "Hartshrone, Thomas. Memorandum Book, 1792-1811, while a deacon of the 1st Church," owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem; Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1804-1863, owned and held by the Essex Institute; Society Assessors' Rate Books (twenty-six volumes), 1797-1801, 1802, 1805, 1813, 1816-1817 and 1848-1849, 1817, 1818, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825-1826, 1827-1829, 1830, 1832, 1833-1834, 1835, 1836, 1839-1844, 1840-1845, 1841-1843, 1841-1859, 1869, 1870; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1820-1880, 1880-1899, 1899-1916; Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1741-1819; Pew Deeds, 1801-1831, 1834-1870; Pew Rental Accounts, 1886-1897.

NEWBURYPORT, Separate (C), extinct.

The church had its origins in New Light secessions from Newbury's First Church and Third (Newburyport First) Church, the withdrawals commencing in 1742. The secessionists heard the preaching of Joseph Adams for about two years, and then accepted the advice of a New Light ecclesiastical council which culminated in the gathering of a Separate Congregational church on Jan. 3, 1746. In September of 1748, the church voted to place itself under the Boston Presbytery, and thereby ending its career as a Separate Congregational body, became the First Presbyterian Church in Newburyport.

From its organization in 1746, the church mixed congregational and presbyterian elements, gathering the church and installing the pastor independent of any presbytery or council, and while employing ruling elders, insisting on their being elected annually.

Minister: Jonathan Parsons (inst. 1746; d. 1776)

See Jonathan Stearns, A Historical Discourse, Commemorative of the Organization of the First Presbyterian Church, in Newburyport, Delivered at The First Centennial Celebration, Jan. 2, 1846 (Newburyport, 1848); A. G. Vermilye, A Historical Discourse Delivered at the One Hundredth Anniversary



of the Building of the First Presbyterian Church, Newburyport, Mass. With an Appendix (Newburyport, 1856); Moody D. Cook, A Genealogical Address, Giving a Brief History of the Parishioners and Founders of the Federal Street Church, from 1745-6 to 1862, with the Names of Their Descendents, Now Parishioners, Delivered before the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Association of the Parish, May 29, 1862 (n.p., 1862); Horace C. Hovey (ed.), Origin and Annals of "The Old South" First Presbyterian Church and Parish, in Newburyport, Mass. 1746-1896 (Boston, 1896); C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 100-101, 316.

NEWBURYPORT, Fifth Church in Newbury (C), extinct.  
Bellville Congregational Church (C).

The Fifth Church in Newbury (after 1764, the Second in Newburyport) was gathered on July 22, 1762, the Fifth Parish having been organized the previous year. With Newburyport's becoming a town (1764), the parish became the Fourth in Newbury; when West Newbury was set off in 1820, the parish was designated the Second in Newbury. The church, however, had ceased to meet soon after the resignation of the minister in 1784, and there had been an interim of eight years between the last meeting of the old Fourth Parish in 1800 and the so-called resuscitation of that body in 1808 as the prudential arm of the Bellville Congregational Church organized in the latter year. The argument for continuity emphasizes the fact that no new parish/society was incorporated in 1808, the reorganization of the prudential body resting on the 1761 act of incorporation. Bellville Congregational Church was gathered without the aid of an ecclesiastical council; only one of its constituting members, a woman, had been a member of the 1762 church.<sup>1</sup> In 1853, the area containing the church was annexed to Newburyport.

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1. The argument for continuity was urged by Daniel T. Fiske in An Historical Discourse commemorative of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization of the Bellville Congregational Church, Newburyport, Mass. Delivered on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, 1858 (Boston, 1859).



Minister: Oliver Noble (inst. 1762; res. 1784; d. 1792)

Ruling elders: although not so titled, officers filling the functions of ruling elders were elected in 1763.

Capt. Moses Little (e. 1763)  
 Capt. Stephen Ordway (e. 1763)

Deacons: Peter Merrill (e. 1762; m. 1763)  
 Ichabod Atkinson (e. 1762)

The records are owned and held by the Bellville Congregational Church, Newburyport.

CR I - "Records of the Fifth Church of Newbury Rev. Oliver Noble - Minister." Volume badly mutilated; some records, 1762-1765, with vital statistics through 1797.

PR I - "Records of the Fifth, Fourth, and Second Parishes in Newbury. 1761-1854." Records of the Fifth Parish, 1761-1800; of the parish of Bellville Congregational Church, 1808-1852.

Miscellaneous records: "Early Records of the Parishes and Churches at the West End of the Newbury Settlement," containing collected loose MS papers, 1696, 1710, 1751, 1759-1779, and a few items relating to Bellville Congregational Church.

Bellville's church records commence with the organization of the church de novo in 1808; proprietors records begin in 1807.

NEWBURYPORT, Third (C), extinct.

The church was gathered by secessionists from the First Church in Newburyport on March 4, 1768, and was known as the Third or North Church in Newburyport, or "the church on Titcomb Street." The Third Religious Society, organized in 1768, received incorporation in 1794.

The church became extinct in 1909, by merging with the Fourth (Prospect Street) Church and the Whitefield Congregational Church to form Central Congregational Church.



Ministers: Christopher Bridge Marsh (ord. 1768; d. 1773)  
 Samuel Spring, D.D. (ord. 1777; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Richard Smith (e. 1768; m. 1777)  
 Joseph Pearson (e. 1768; m. 1783)<sup>1</sup>

The records are owned and held by the Central Congregational Church, Newburyport.

CR I - "Book belonging to the North Congregational Church in Newbury-port. A.D. 1768." 1768-1783.

CR I COPY & CR II - Church Records, 1768-1783 (copy), with vital statistics to 1789; lacuna, 1789-1819; records, 1819-1837.

CR III - "Records of the Second Congregational Church<sup>2</sup> in Newburyport." 1837-1865.

VS - "Records of Marriages, Baptisms, and Deaths, in connection with the North Congregational Society of Newburyport, No I." 1777-1859.

CR IV - Church Records, 1866-1906.<sup>3</sup>

PROP/SR I - Records of the Proprietors and of the Third Religious Society, 1768-1826.

PROP II - Proprietors Records, 1828-1876.

PROP III - "Proprietors Record Book of The North Congregational Church 1878-1909."

1. The Deacon Atkinson who transferred his membership to this church in 1780 may have served in the same office here. Deacon William Eaton died in 1819, but whether he was elected before or after 1805 is not known.

2. Called "Second Church" because the Fifth Church of Newbury (technically Newburyport Second) was by this time extinct.

3. A fifth volume, 1906-1909, completes the church's records up to its extinction by merger.



SR II - "Third Religious Society's Records 1826." 1826-1871.

SR III - "North Congregational Society 1872-1908."<sup>1</sup>

Miscellaneous records: Church Registers of Members, 1862-1907, 1862-1909; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1881-1906; Pew Accounts and Conveyances, 1768-1788, 1815-1838; 1863-1889; Pew List, 1828.

NEWBURYPORT, Fourth (C), extinct.

The church was gathered by secessionists from the First Presbyterian Church on May 30, 1793, and was known as the Fourth or Prospect Street or Temple Street Church. The Fourth Religious Society (sometimes denominated the Independent Calvinistic Society) was incorporated in 1794. The church became extinct in 1909, by merging with the Third (Titcomb Street) Church and the Whitefield Congregational Church to form Central Congregational Church. During its early days, the church retained much of the Presbyterian structure of the parent church, but was independent of any presbytery, synod or ecclesiastical judicatory.

Minister: Charles W. Milton (inst. 1794; dism. 1837; d. 1837)

Ruling elders: peculiar to this church was the rule that ruling elders had to be elected each year, and this practice was followed until the office was abandoned in 1850.

Daniel Plummer	(e. annually 1794-1797)
Timothy Jackman	(e. annually 1794-1795)
Samuel Noyes	(e. annually 1794-1805ff.)
Jonathan Morse	(e. annually 1795-1805ff.)
Moses Hoyt	(e. annually 1796-1803)
Henry Pierce	(e. annually 1798-1805ff.)

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1. A fourth volume, 1909, completes the society's records up to its extinction by merger.

Hubbard Haskell	(e. annually 1803-1805ff.)
Enoch Hale	(e. annually 1803-1805ff.)
Thomas M. Clerk	(e. annually 1804-1805ff.)

Deacons:	Solomon Haskell	(e. 1794; d. 1829)
	Jonathan Morse	(e. 1794; res. 1796 to devote time to the ruling eldership; m. 1805ff.)
	Silas Parker	(e. 1796; d. 1833)

The records are owned and held by the Central Congregational Church, Newburyport.

CR I - "Records of the Independent Calvinist Church."  
1793-1836.

CR II - "Records of the Independent now the Fourth Church  
in Newburyport. May 5th 1794." 1837-1867.

CR III - Church Records, 1867-1896.

CR IV - Church Records, 1896-1909.

SR I - Society Records, 1794-1875.

NEWBURYPORT, Belleville Church and Society (see Newburyport,  
Fifth Church of Newbury).

NEWBURYPORT, Independent Calvinist Church (see Newburyport,  
Fourth).



NEWBURYPORT, Prospect Street Church and Society (see Newburyport, Fourth).

NEWBURYPORT, North Church and Society (see Newburyport, Third).

NEWBURYPORT, Second Church and Parish (see Newburyport, Fifth Church of Newbury).

NEWBURYPORT, Temple Street Church (see Newburyport, Fourth).

NEWBURYPORT, Titcomb Street Church (see Newburyport, Third).

NEWBURY SIDE Parish (see Byfield).

NEW CAMBRIDGE (see Newton, First).

NEW FRAMINGHAM (see Lanesboro).

NEW MARLBORO, First (now United) (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 31, 1744. The First Society/Parish was organized in the same year, received incorporation in 1794, and was dissolved not long after the incorporation of the church in 1910. In 1960, this church federated with New Marlboro's Southfield and Mill River churches to form the United Church.

Ministers:	Thomas Strong	(ord. 1744; d. 1777)
	Caleb Alexander, D.D.	(ord. 1781; dism. 1782; d. 1828)
	Jacob Catlin, D.D.	(ord. 1787; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Nathaniel Harmon	(e. 1749; rem. n.d.)
	Seth Strong	(e. 1756; rem. n.d.)
	Jesse Taylor	(e. 1761-1762; d. 1782)
	Caleb Wright	(e. 1772; d. 1815)
	Ephraim Guiteau	(e. 1772; rem. n.d.)
	Samuel Sheldon	(e. 1780; d. 1818)
	Artemas Brigham	(e. 1797; d. 1798)
	Ezra Knapp	(e. 1799; rem. n.d.)

The records are owned by the church and deposited at the Mill River Library, New Marlboro.



CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1744-ca. 1826.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "The Records of the first Church of Christ in New Marlborough, Mss. Book 2." 1826-1869.

CR III - "Records. First Cong'l Church, New-Marlboro. 1868." 1868-1910.

PR I - "Book of Records for the first Parish in New Marlborough." 1792-1860.

PR II - "Records." 1861-1923.

NEW MARLBORO, Second/Southfield (now United) (C).

The church was gathered on April 25, 1794 as the Second/South Parish or Southfield Church in New Marlboro. The South Parish was incorporated in 1794, and the Trustees of the funds subscribed for the support of the Gospel Ministry in 1797. The parish was dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1905.

In 1960, this church federated with New Marlboro's First and Mill River churches to form the United Church.

Ministers: John Stevens (inst. 1794; d. 1799)  
Nathaniel Turner (ord. 1799; d. 1812)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Nathan Butler (e. 1794; rem. n.d.)<sub>2</sub>  
Joseph Fitch (e. 1794; rem. 1817)<sup>2</sup>

The records are owned by the church, and kept in the Southfield church building.

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1. Church records for the years ca. 1744-1777 were used by Hadley K. Turner in preparing his book, A History of New Marlborough (Great Barrington, Mass., 1954).

2. It is not known whether Deacons Ebenezer Smith and Benjamin Smith, who died in 1816 and 1842, respectively, were elected before 1806.

CR I - "Church Records of the South Parish in New-Marlborough." 1794 (a copy), 1813-1833.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in the South Parish of New Marlborough." 1834-1871.

CR I, II COPY - "Records of the South New Marlboro or Southfield Cong'l Church, Organized April 25th, 1794, to Jan. 22, 1871." Copy made by Otis Lombard in 1860, with additional data; carried through 1871.

CR III - "Book No. 3d. Records of the Congregational Church of the South Parish of New Marlborough. Also its new Covenant, Articles of Faith and Standing Rules." 1871-1896.

PR I - "Records of the Cong: Ch: [sic] in Southfield." Parish records, 1856-1905.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1890-1906; MS church and parish history, 1794-1846, entitled "Church & Parish Records - Southern New Marlboro or Southfield"; Church Register, 1794-1870; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1823-1865, 1866-1871.

NEW MARLBORO, North Parish (see New Marlboro, First).

NEW MEDFIELD (see Sturbridge, Federated).

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1. Memorandum in CR I, II COPY reports as of 1860 that the earliest extant records at that time dated from 1813.



NEW-ROWLEY (see Georgetown).

NEW SALEM, First Parish (U), inactive.

The church was gathered on Dec. 15, 1742. The Congregational Society, incorporated in 1782, was dissolved in 1788, when it was superceded by the First Parish. The Trustees of the Fund of the Congregational Society were incorporated in 1819.

Ministers: Samuel Kendall (ord. 1742; res. 1776; d. 1792)  
 Joel Foster (ord. 1779; res. 1802; d. 1812)  
 Warren Pierce (ord. 1804; res. 1807)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Ebenezer Felton (e. 1744; m. 1761)  
 Jeremiah Ballard (e. 1750; m. 1761)  
 Benjamin Southwick (e. 1759)  
 Uzial Putnam (e. 1768; m. 1771)  
 Samuel Kendall<sup>1</sup> (m. 1796; rem. 1814)  
 Joshua Hemmenway<sup>1</sup>  
 William Larned  
 Timothy Packard

The records are owned by the church and deposited at the Town Hall.

CR I - "Minister's Records of Congregational Society of New Salem, Mass. from 1742. Marriages. Baptisms. Admissions to communion, &c." Fragmentary records, 1742-1782.

VS I - "Copy of Marriage record of Congregational Church in New Salem prior to 1800." 1742-1782.

CR II - "Church Records Commencing with the Ministry of Rev. Alpheus Harding, December 2d., AD. 1807." 1807-1858, with vital statistics to 1868.

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1. Hemmenway, Larned and Packard are titled deacons in a church membership list of 1805-1807; it is presumed all were elected before 1806.



CR I & II COPY - Inez S. Lederer, typescript, "New Salem, Mass. Church Records. Admissions and Dismissions 1743-1833."

CR I & II PUB - Inez S. Lederer and Winifred L. Holman, "New Salem, Mass., Church Records," NEHGR, CXIII (1959), 29-42.

PR I - Parish Records, 1788-1848.

PR II - "Parish Record." 1864-present.

Miscellaneous records: Records of the Trustees of the Fund, 1820-1909.

#### NEW SALEM, North Church and Society (C).

The beginnings of this church are obscure, but it appears that it was gathered early in the years between 1802 and 1807 in North New Salem. A meetinghouse erected in the latter year housed its services, although ownership was held by New Salem's First Parish.

The minister of the First Parish supplied here until 1824 when the members withdrew from him (because of his Unitarian sympathies), organized their own Orthodox Society, and styled themselves the Trinitarian Congregational Church. Neighboring Congregational ministers supplied the pulpit from 1825 to 1842, Baptists and others from 1842 to 1847.<sup>1</sup> The site of the meetinghouse, meanwhile, had been changed. A Methodist church was formed in North New Salem in 1867, absorbing many of the members of the Trinitarian Congregational Church, and Methodists supplied the pulpit of the meetinghouse until 1879, when the Methodist church was disbanded and as many of its members as were willing were transferred to the Methodist church in Orange. Some members, however, considered themselves still members of the Trinitarian Congregational Church, and after a brief

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1. By a recent adjustment of town boundaries, the church building now stands in the town of Orange.



time, acquired the supply services of the ministers of Orange's Central Congregational Church, an arrangement which continued until 1949. In 1902-1903, the present North Congregational Society was organized and recognized by an ecclesiastical council. Ministers of Orange's Mission Covenant Church supplied here from 1949 until 1961, when the church settled its first resident Congregational minister.

No ruling elders appear to have been employed here, nor any deacons elected until 1903.

Except for fragmentary society records, there are no records antedating 1961. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

SR I - Society Records, 1824-1831.

SR II - Society Records, 1836-1843.

PROP I - Records of the Proprietors of the Meeting House, 1835-1844.

See "New Salem Anniversary," p. B 13, Greenfield Recorder-Gazette, Aug. 5, 1953.

#### NEWTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on July 20, 1664 in the area variously called Nonantum, Cambridge Village and New Cambridge, in 1691 incorporated as the town of Newton. The First Parish was organized in 1664, and the Proprietors of the Meeting House in 1860. The parish was dissolved before the incorporation of the church in 1895.

Ministers:	John Eliot, Jr.	(ord. 1664; d. 1668)
	Nehemiah Hobart	(ord. 1674; d. 1712)
	John Cotton	(ord. 1714; d. 1757)
	Jonas Merriam	(ord. 1758; d. 1780)
	Jonathan Homer, D.D.	(ord. 1782; res. 1839; d. 1843)

Ruling elder:	Thomas Wiswall	(e. and ord. 1664; d. 1683)
Deacons:	John Jackson, Sr.	(e. and ord. 1664; d. 1674)
	Samuel Hyde, Sr.	(e. and ord. 1664; d. 1689)
	Isaac Williams	(d. 1707)
	James Trowbridge	(m. 1705; d. 1717)
	Edward Jackson, Jr.	(e. and ord. 1707; d. 1727)
	Thomas Oliver	(e. and ord. 1707; d. 1715)
	Richard Ward	(d. 1739)
	John Staples	(d. 1740)
	William Trowbridge	(d. 1744)
	Ebenezer Stone	(d. 1754)
	John Stone	(d. 1769)
	John Clark	(d. 1773)
	Ephraim Ward	(m. 1770; d. 1772)
	Thomas Greenwood	(m. 1770; res. 1773; d. 1774)
	Jonas Stone	(m. 1770; res. 1796; d. 1804)
	John Woodward	(e. 1773; res. 1798; d. 1801)
	David Stone	(e. 1773; res. 1798; d. 1802)
	Ebenezer Woodward	(e. 1798; d. 1806)
	Samuel Murdock	(e. 1798; d. 1814)
	Jeremiah Wiswall	(e. 1798; d. 1836)

A parsonage fire in 1770 destroyed all records antedating that year; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Newton Chh Records." 1770-1827.

CR II - "Records of the first Church in Newton." 1827-1873.

CR III - "First Church, Newton - Records." 1873-1891.

CR IV - "Record First Church, Newton." 1892-1910.

PR I - Precinct/Parish Records, 1778-1805.

PR I COPY - Typescript copy, made by W.P.A. workers, 1937-1938.

PR II - Parish Records, 1806-1846.

PR III - "Records of the First Parish in Newton Commencing May 1846." 1846-1860.

PR III DUP - Partial duplicate of PR I, 1846-1855.



PROP I - "Proprietors of the Meeting House in the First Parish in Newton." 1855-1883.

PROP II - "Commonwealth of Massachusetts City of Newton First Parish Newton Legal title being 'The Proprietors of the Meeting House in the First Parish in Newton.'" 1883-1895.

Miscellaneous records: Church Register, 1859-1895; Church Treasurer's Accounts, (a) Benevolences, 1870-1888, 1890-1896, 1896-1899, 1896-1908, (b) Communion, 1883-1888, (c) General, 1888-1895 (two vols.), 1895-1899, 1896-1904, 1896-1908; Church Standing Committee Records, 1884-1888, 1888-1895, 1895-1929; Church Prudential Committee, 1895-1931; Precinct/Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1779-1793 (two vols., one a W.P.A. typescript copy), 1795-1839, 1796-1817; Meeting House Committee Records, 1869-1870; Meeting House Accounts, 1804-1808; Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1862-1874, 1868-1895, 1876-1895.

See Jonathan Homer, "Description and History of Newton, in the County of Middlesex," MHSC, 1st Ser., V (1796, rep. 1835), 253-280; Francis Jackson, History of the Early Settlement of Newton, County of Middlesex, Massachusetts. From 1639 to 1800. With a Genealogical Register of Its Inhabitants, Prior to 1800 (Boston, 1854), A Brief History of the First Church, Newton (Newton Center,) with Articles of Faith, Covenant, Standing Rules, and The Names of Its Members (Boston, 1876), S. F. Smith, History of Newton, Massachusetts. Town and City From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time. 1630-1880 (Boston, 1880).

NEWTON, First Separate (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Jan. 17, 1751 in the part of Newton adjoining present-day Brookline.<sup>1</sup> About 1758 it

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1. Of the authorities cited below, Backus and Goen list this church under Brookline, possibly to distinguish it from the Second Separate Congregational Church in Newton.



absorbed the members of Newton's Second Separate Congregational Church. When a Baptist church was organized in Newton in 1780, it attracted most of the members of the Separate Congregational body.

Minister: Jonathan Hyde (ord. 1751; d. 1787)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the absence of any records, the only name that has survived is that of Deacon Winchester, father of New Light preacher Elhanan Winchester.

See Isaac Backus, A Church History of New England, III (Boston, 1796), pp. 171-172; S. F. Smith, History of Newton, Massachusetts. Town and City From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time. 1630-1880 (Boston, 1880), p. 200; C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 97, 312.

NEWTON, Second Separate (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Jan. 17, 1753. About 1758 it was absorbed by Newton's First Separate Congregational Church, which in turn joined with the Baptist church organized in Newton in 1780.

Minister: Nathan Ward (ord. 1753; dism. and rem. 1758; d. 1804)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the absence of any records, no names of lay personnel have survived.

See the works cited for NEWTON, First Separate Church.

NEWTON, Second (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 21, 1781 in the West Precinct (incorporated 1778) as the Second Church in Newton. The Second Congregational Society was incorporated in 1869.



Minister: William Greenough (ord. 1781; d. 1831)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Ward	(e. 1781; d. 1784)
	Joseph Jackson	(e. 1781; d. 1803)
	Enoch Ward	(e. 1789; d. 1789)
	Joseph Fuller	(e. 1793; res. 1811; d. 1813)
	Thomas Eustis, Jr.	(e. 1800; res. 1806; d. 1809)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records 1781." 1781-1856.

CR II - "Records - Second Congregational Church of Newton, Mass." 1856-1914.

VS I - "Register. Second Church in Newton at West Newton." Admissions, 1781-1948.

VS II - Vital Statistics, 1860-1894.

PR I - "West P. Meetings." Parish records, 1778-1842.

PR II - Parish Records, 1843-1859.

P/SR III - Parish/Society Records, 1860-1914.

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Sacramental Accounts, 1827-1853; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1780-1794, 1800-1855.

NEWTON, West Precinct/Parish (see Newton, Second, West).

NEWTOWN (see Cambridge).

NIPMUG, Indian Church (see Grafton, Hassanamesit Indian Praying Town and Church).

#### NORFOLK, Federated (C).

The church was gathered on June 16, 1798 as the North Church in Wrentham, its personnel having seceded from Wrentham First Church. The North Society, organized in 1795, was incorporated in 1799, and reincorporated as the North Parish Congregational Funding Society. In 1832, the Cleaveland Religious Society was incorporated, the two societies continuing side by side until the church received incorporation on June 24, 1889. The federation with other local religious bodies took place in 1918.

Minister: John Cleaveland, Jr. (ord. 1798; d. 1815)

Ruling elders and deacons: the loss of the early records accounts for the dearth of information regarding lay officers of this church. Among those prominent in the separation that led to the gathering of the Norfolk church were Wrentham deacons Thomas Mann and Jacob Pond. In 1795 they were summarily dismissed from the Wrentham diaconate and then, in an attempt at healing the separation, offered the opportunity to resume their duties in the parent church. Whether Mann (who died in 1807) and Pond (who died in 1815) accepted these terms, or whether they continued at Norfolk, is unknown.<sup>1</sup>

Several fires between 1798 and 1961 have destroyed many of the church's records; those extant are owned and held by the church.

C MISC - Benjamin Day's Records of the Avery Case, 1793-1795, with data on the Wrentham and Norfolk churches, 1793-1802.

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1. Deacon Asa Ware, who appears in the society records in 1811, was probably elected after 1805, possibly as a replacement to Deacon Mann.



CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1798-1876. Destroyed by fire.

CR II - "Records of the Union Congregational Church, Norfolk, Mass. Commencing May 14th 1876." 1876-1900.

SR I - "A Book of Record's For the North Society in Wrentham Feb. 8th 1798." 1798-1886.

SR II - "A Book of Records of the Cleaveland Religious Society in North Wrentham Which was organized according to Law April 30th AD. 1832." 1832-1889.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1888-1903; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1795-1863, 1877-1889; Church Treasurer's Receipt Book, 1832-1849.

See Mortimer Blake, A Centennial History of the Mendon Association of Congregational Ministers, with the Centennial Address, Delivered at Franklin, Mass., Nov. 19, 1851, and Biographical Sketches of the Members and Licentiates (Boston, 1853); Bertha Fales, typescript "A History of Norfolk," ca. 1948, copies at the church and local public library.

#### NORTHAMPTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on June 18, 1661, and the First Parish organized in 1826.

Ministers:	Eleazar Mather	(ord. pastor 1661; d. 1669)
	Joseph Eliot	(unord., sett. as assistant or teacher 1662; rem. 1664, d. 1694)
	Solomon Stoddard	(ord. 1672; d. 1729)
	Jonathan Edwards	(ord. colleague 1726/27; dism. 1750; d. 1758)
	John Hooker	(ord. 1753; d. 1777)
	Solomon Williams	(ord. 1778; dism. 1823; d. 1834)

Ruling elders:	John Strong	(e. 1662; ord. 1663; d. 1699) <sup>1</sup>
	Preserved Clapp	(e. 1720)
	Ebenezer Strong	(d. 1729)
Deacons:	William Holden	(e. 1662; ord. 1663; d. 1691)
	Thomas Hanchet	(e. and ord. 1668; rem. n.d.; d. 1686)
	Medad Pomeroy <sup>2</sup>	(e. and ord. 1675; d. 1720)
	Jonathan Hunt	(e. and ord. 1680; d. 1691)
	Nathaniel Phelps	(e. and ord. 1691; d. 1702)
	John Clark	(e. and ord. 1691; d. 1704)
	Thomas Sheldon	(e. and ord. 1702; d. 1725)
	Ebenezer Wright	(e. and ord. 1704; d. 1748)
	Samuel Allen	(e. and ord. 1725; d. 1739)
	John Clark	(e. and ord. 1730; d. 1768)
	Noah Cook	(e. and ord. 1739; d. 1773)
	Ebenezer Pomeroy	(e. and ord. 1739; d. 1774)
	Stephen Wright	(e. and ord. 1739; m. 1740; rem. n.d.)
	Lt. Ebenezer Hunt	(e. 1754; d. 1788)
	Lt. Supply Kingsley	(e. 1754; d. 1768)
	Maj. Joseph Hawley	(e. 1762; d. 1788)
	Jonathan Hunt	(e. 1764; d. 1796)
	Aaron Cook	(e. 1774; d. 1805)
	Josiah Clark, Jr.	(e. 1774; d. 1808)
	Lt. Elijah Clark	(e. 1785; d. 1791)
	Lt. Moses Kingsley	(e. 1785; rem. 1794)
	Enos Wright	(e. 1791; d. 1834)
	Solomon Allen	(e. 1797; demitted 1804 to enter the ministry) <sup>3</sup>
	Israel Clark	(e. 1804; d. 1851)
	Luther Clark	(e. 1805; d. 1855)

The records are owned and held by the church.

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1. See Edward Strong, "Elder John Strong and His Descendents," NEHGR, XXIII (1869), 294-296.

2. Sometimes given as "Pumroy."

3. Deacon Joseph Clark of Peru, who transferred his church membership here in 1803, may have served as a deacon in this church.



CR I - "1st Church Records - 1661 to 1846 - Old First Book."<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "Minutes of the proceedings of the Church in Northampton, 1821-1888."

VS I - "Church Book 3. Admissions, Dismissions, Marriages, Baptisms, Deaths." 1845-1924.<sup>2</sup>

PR I - "Parish Record. Vol. One." 1826-1844.

PR II - "Records. Vol. Two. First Parish." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Congregational Church and Society in Northampton from January 1845 to March 1st 1880.")

PR III - "Records, Vol. 3. First Parish." 1880-1909.

Miscellaneous records: Church Register and Records of Church Committee, 1818-1874; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1873-1887.

See Solomon Clark, Historical Catalogue of the Northampton First Church, 1661-1891 (Northampton, 1891).

NORTHAMPTON, Second Precinct (see Southampton).

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1. Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 348, describes the entries in this volume as "largely illegible, and parts of the book are badly mutilated." Actually, the entries are quite legible, and the mutilations consist of occasional (although not consistent) erasures of the names of delinquents restored to church fellowship.

2. One report tells of a so-called "Judd Manuscript," being a clergyman's record of Northampton marriages, 1735-1806, held by Forbes Library, Northampton.

## NORTH ANDOVER, North Parish (U).

The church, the First in Andover, was gathered on Oct. 24, 1645. Andover was divided into North and South Precincts in 1708, the old church falling into the former area. The North Parish Church and Society received incorporation in 1834. In 1855, North Andover became a town, and the titles were changed to the North Parish Church and Society of North Andover.

Ministers:	John Woodbridge	(ord. at Rowley for service at Andover 1645; rem. 1647; d. 1694/95)
	Francis Dane	(ord. teacher 1648; d. 1696/97)
	Thomas Barnard	(ord. 1682; d. 1718)
	John Barnard	(ord. 1719; d. 1758)
	William Symmes, D.D.	(ord. 1758; d. 1807)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Barker	(e. 1693)
	Joseph Stevens	(e. 1694)
	John Osgood	(e. 1719; res. 1748)
	John Farnum	(e. 1727)
	Samuel Barker	(e. 1736)
	Samuel Phillips	(e. 1748; res. 1790)
	Joseph Osgood	(e. 1763)
	Samuel Barker, 3rd	(e. 1766)
	Capt. Benjamin Farnum	(e. 1790)
	Capt. John Adams	(e. 1797)
	Dr. George Osgood	(e. 1797)

There are no church records antedating 1686; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited at a local bank. Microfilm copies are owned and held by the North Andover Historical Society.

CR I - "Journal kept by Rev. Thomas Barnard, John Barnard and Dr. Symmes." 1686-1810.

CR II - "Minister's Book, 1810-1850."

CR III - "Minister's Book, 1810-1850 [sic]." Incorrectly dated in title; covers 1848-1936.

PR I - Precinct/Parish Records, 1708-1827.



PR II - Parish Records, 1828-1849.

P/SR III - Parish/Society Records, 1849-1916.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1712-1780, 1781-1823; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1802-1849, 1824-1848, 1849-1920, 1849-1861, 1861-1914; Pew Deeds, 1814-1826, 1836-1862.

See Abiel Abbot, The History of Andover from its Settlement to 1820 (Andover, 1820); Sarah L. Bailey, Historical Sketches of Andover, Massachusetts (Boston, 1880); Claude M. Fuess, Andover: Symbol of New England: The Evolution of a Town (Portland, Me., 1959).

#### NORTH ATTLEBORO, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 12, 1712. It was located in that part of Attleboro which in 1743 was set off as the First Precinct (or West Parish), and which since has come to be known as "Oldtown." The Congregational Society was organized in 1794 and incorporated the next year.

Ministers:	Matthew Short	(ord. 1712; dism. 1715; d. 1731)
	Ebenezer White	(ord. 1716; d. 1726)
	Habijah Weld	(ord. 1727; d. 1782)
	John Wilder	(ord. 1790; dism. 1822; d. 1836)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	---- Fuller	(m. 1716)
	Ebenezer Lane	(m. 1752-1757)
	Jonathan Stanley	(m. 1770-1791)
	Enoch Robinson	(e. 1791)
	Aaron Davis	(n.d.)
	Elihu Carpenter	(e. 1800)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1741-1840, with marriages and deaths for 1851-1856. Entries for 1741-1805 largely confined to vital statistics.

CR I COPY - Typescript copy, made in 1950, by Mrs. Eleanor M. McLintock.

CR II - "Records of the Business transacted by the First Congregational Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Attleborough Massachusetts. Commencing February 8th, AD. 1828 [sic]." 1841-1867, with vital statistics to 1914.

CR III - "Records of the First Congregational Church Attleborough. from Jan 1st 1868 to May 11 1916."

SR I - "A Book of Records of the Incorporated Congregational Society in the 1st precinct in Attleborough May 19th 1794." 1794-1894.

PR I - Precinct/Parish Records, 1822-1842.

Miscellaneous records: Society Assessors' Rate Book, 1831-1835; Society Committee Records, 1845-1904.

#### NORTHBORO, First Congregational-Unitarian Church (U).

The church was gathered on May 26, 1746 as the Church in the Second Precinct of Westboro, becoming the Church in Northboro when the precinct became a town in 1766. The First Unitarian Society was organized in 1832.

Ministers: John Martyn (ord. 1746; d. 1767)  
Peter Whitney (ord. 1767; d. 1816)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Jonathan Livermore (e. 1746; res. 1782)  
Matthias Rice (e. 1746; d. 1764)  
Paul Newton (e. ca. 1765; res. 1795; d. 1796)  
Seth Rice, Jr. (e. 1782; res. 1807)  
Isaac Davis (e. 1795; res. 1825; d. 1826)

Records antedating 1780 were destroyed by fire in that year; the extant records are owned and held by the church.



CR I - "Northborough Church & Book of Records, 1780."  
1780-1845, with memoranda of the years 1746-1780.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1845-1880.

CR III - "Northborough Church & Book of Records, 1880-1908."

See Peter Whitney, The Duty of Praising the Works of God, to Succeeding Generations, Considered and Applied in a Discourse, Delivered at Northborough on Wednesday, June 1st, 1796 (Worcester, 1796); Joseph Allen, The Day of Small Things. A Centennial Discourse, Delivered in Northborough, June 1, 1846, in Commemoration of the Organization of the First Congregational Church in that Place, and the Ordination of their First Minister, One Hundred Years Ago. With an Appendix (Boston, 1846); William A. Houghton, Our Fathers' Altar: A Centennial Sermon, Preached June 7, 1846, in Commemoration of the Founding of the First Christian Church in Northborough, Mass. (Worcester, 1846); The Centennial Celebration of the Town of Northborough, Mass., August 22, 1866 (n.p., 1866).

#### NORTHBRIDGE, Center (C).

The church was gathered on June 6, 1782; the Congregational Society, organized in 1773, was incorporated in 1814. From 1879 to 1897, the church was yoked with the Rockdale Congregational Church of Northboro. The society was dissolved in 1940.

Minister: John Crane (ord. 1783; dism. 1832; d. 1836)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Jacob Hill	(e. 1783; res. and rem. 1809)
	William Park	(e. 1783; re-e. 1785)
	Amariah Preston	(e. 1788; res. 1803; resumed diaconal office 1805; res. and rem. 1826)
	James Morse	(e. 1803)
	Thomas Goldthwait	(e. 1803; m. 1831)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "A Book of Records for the Congregational Chh of Christ in Northbridge." 1782-1834.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church of Christ In Northbridge. 1835." 1835-1905.

SR I - "Northbridge Congregational Society's Records. 1814. Clerk's Book No. 1." 1814-1909.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1815-1897; Society Committee Records, 1815-1911.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER, First Church and Parish (see Brockton).

NORTH BROOKFIELD (C).

The church was gathered as the Second Church in Brookfield on May 28, 1752, the Second (North) Precinct having been incorporated in 1750. The precinct became the town of North Brookfield in 1812. The First Congregational Society in North Brookfield was incorporated in 1839, by which time the church had taken the name, First Congregational Church. The Society was dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1926.

Ministers:	Eli Forbes, D.D. <sup>1</sup>	(ord. 1752; disp. 1775; d. 1804)
	Joseph Appleton	(ord. 1776; d. 1795)
	Thomas Snell, D.D.	(ord. 1798; d. 1862)

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1. Dr. Forbes later changed his name to "Forbush." See "Diary of Rev. Eli Forbes [for 1762]," MHSP, 2nd Ser., VII (1891-2), 384-399.



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Cutler	(e. 1753; res. and rem. 1754)
	Jason Bigelow	(e. 1753; d. 1776)
	Samuel Gould	(e. 1754; m. 1770)
	Reuben Hamilton	(e. 1764; res. 1785)
	John Bacon	(e. 1766; m. 1772)
	Benjamin Adams, Jr.	(e. 1779; res. 1806; d. 1829)
	Samuel Haskell	(e. 1784; d. 1820)

The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1752-1796.

CR I COPY & CR II - "The Records of the Second Church of Christ in Brookfield." Copy of church records, 1752-1796; original records, 1797-1851.

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1851-1862.

CR IV - Church Records, 1862-1880.

CR V - "Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of The First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, Mass.") 1880-1894.

VS I - "Register, First Congregational Church, North Brookfield, Mass." Church register, 1752-1956.

VS II - "Church Register. Register of the First Congregational Church in North Brookfield. Organized May 28th AD 1752." 1889-present.

PR I COPY - "Records. Old Parish Records." Copy of precinct/parish records (originals with Town Clerk), 1748-1811.

PR II - Precinct/Parish Records, 1819-1838.

SR III - "Record." Society records, 1839-1868.

SR IV - "Records. First Cong. Society No. Brookfield." 1869-1898.

SR V - "Records First Cong'l Society North Brookfield." 1898-1926.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1806-1834, 1889-1934 (one book); Parish Assessors' annual Rate Books, 1817, 1819-1823, 1825-1829, 1831-1843, 1845-1854, 1856-1861, 1865-1874, single book for 1863-1867; Parish/Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1820-1853, 1852-1921; Pew Accounts, 1875-1884, 1877-1881, 1881-1883, 1884-1885; Parish Ledger, 1899-1906; Society Committee Records, 1870-1890.

NORTH CAMBRIDGE, Church (see Lexington).

NORTH CARVER, Church and First Parish (see Carver).

NORTH CHELSEA, First Church and Parish (see Revere).

NORTH DENNIS, Church (see Dennis).

NORTH DIGHTON (see Dighton, First).



## NORTHFIELD, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered in August of 1718, the parish having been organized earlier the same year.

Ministers: Benjamin Doolittle (ord. 1718; d. 1749)  
 John Hubbard (ord. 1750; d. 1794)  
 Samuel C. Allen (ord. 1795; dism. 1798;  
 d. 1842)  
 Thomas Mason (ord. 1799; dism. 1830;  
 d. 1851)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: the list is conjectural, due to the thinness of the early records. The deacons Medad Pomeroy (Pumry) and Eliezur Hawks figuring in the Deerfield-Northfield Proprietors Records and Northfield Committee Records during the early eighteenth century, were probably deacons elsewhere.

Benjamin Janes	(came to Northfield 1716; deacon until rem. to Ct. 1725-1729)
Eleazur Mattoon	(came to Northfield 1717; m. as deacon 1723-1732; rem. 1738; d. 1767)
Ebenezer Alexander	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1728; d. 1768)
Samuel Root	(came to Northfield 1744; m. as deacon 1750-1769; rem. <u>ca.</u> 1782)
Samuel Smith	(m. as deacon 1751-1780; d. 1799)
Aaron Lyman	(d. 1780-1788)
Ebenezer Field	(m. as deacon 1753-1772; d. 1801)
Peter S. Evans	(dism. 1763)
Paul Field	(e. 1769; d. 1778)
Ebenezer Janes	(e. 1776-1778; d. 1808)
Timothy Dutton	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1796; d. 1814)

There are no church records antedating 1750; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1718-1750.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Temple and Sheldon, op. cit., "Preface," iii, state that the church records to 1750 have long been lost, and the "historical portions" of CR II were "purposely cut out or destroyed."

CR II - Church Records, 1750-1796. Largely vital statistics, with a few scattered votes.

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1796-1830.

CR IV - "Church Records." 1830-1949.

PR I - "Records 1st Parish Northfield 1826." 1826-1844.

PR II - "Records of First Parish - Northfield." 1845-1890.

PR III - "Records. First Parish." 1891-present.

Miscellaneous records: the above-mentioned Records of the Committee for Northfield, 1685-1690 and 1713-1723, are held by the Northfield Town Clerk. Mention should be made of the Alexander Collection of papers, held by the Northfield Public Library. Owned and held by the church are three recent MSS: Dorothy L. Miller, untitled paper on the early church records; Charles C. Stearns, "History of (Unitarian) First Parish Church"; Robert S. Slater, "The History of The First Church of Northfield, Massachusetts," 1955.

See also John Hubbard, "Mr. Hubbard's Account of Northfield," MHSC, 1st Ser., II (1793, pub. 1810), 30-32; J. H. Temple and George Sheldon, History of the Town of Northfield, Massachusetts, for 150 Years, with An Account of the Prior Occupation of the Territory by the Squakheags: and with Family Genealogies (Albany, 1875); Herbert C. Parsons, A Puritan Outpost: A History of the Town and People of Northfield, Massachusetts (New York, 1937).

NORTH NEW SALEM (see New Salem, North, Orange).



## NORTH ORANGE (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Nov. 14, 1782 as the Congregational Church in South Warwick. The following year, this part of Warwick became the town of Orange. In 1784, the Congregational Society was incorporated (act repealed in 1791), and so were the Trustees of the Society. In 1811, having been without a settled ministry since 1790, the Congregationalists voted to let an unidentified local "Universalist Society" use the meetinghouse when not being used by themselves.

In 1822, the surviving church members settled a Unitarian minister, John Chandler; they dismissed him in 1827. The trend toward Unitarianism being firmly established, in 1844 members merged with local Universalists to form "The First Congregational Parish and Society." The latter tradition came so to predominate that in 1868, this body's name was<sub>1</sub> changed to "The Second Universalist Society of Orange."<sup>1</sup>

In 1878, this Society merged with the "Third Congregational Church" (founded in 1843) to form "The Universalist Congregational Community Church of North Orange and Tully," still in existence today.

Minister: Emerson Foster (inst. 1782; dism. 1790;  
d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Nehemiah Ward (e. 1783; m. 1796)<sub>2</sub>  
Nathan Goddard, Jr. (e. 1783; m. 1796)<sup>2</sup>

The records are owned and held by North Orange and Tully church.

CR I - "Book of Chh Records of the Church of Christ in the District of Orange." 1782-1827.<sup>3</sup>

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1. A "First Universalist Society" was organized in Orange in 1859.

2. The next record of a diaconal election is dated 1823.

3. Under date of April 30, 1824, the records note the church voted to "erase certain records made by Rev Mr Foster," which accounts for the thinness of the account.



SR I - Society Records, 1781-1880.

See also Charles Conklin, Historical Address delivered in the North Orange Universalist Church at the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Building of the First Parish Church in Orange, Now the Second Universalist Society, May 11, 1906 (n.p., 1906); History of North Orange, Massachusetts, Including Leading Events from the First Organization of Orange, 1781-1924 (n.p., 1924); Edmund Preece, typescript, "History of The Community Church Building at North Orange, Massachusetts"<sup>1</sup>; Gertrude A. Rugg, "Orange," Greenfield Recorder-Gazette for July 1, 1960.

NORTH READING (C).  
(Universalist), extinct.

Reading was settled in 1639, and its (First) church was gathered in 1645.

In 1713, the residents of northern Reading successfully petitioned to become a separate precinct, taking the title of the Precinct on the North Side of Ipswich River and Sadlor's Rock. Reading's Second Church was gathered in this precinct on June 29, 1720, and it is with this church that we now have to do.<sup>2</sup>

In 1853, the northern precinct was incorporated as the town of North Reading, carrying with it the 1720 church. The church became known as the First Church of North

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1. The typescript is owned and held by Mr. Preece, who is Treasurer of the North Orange and Tully church.

2. To briefly summarize the history of Reading's other churches: in 1770, the settlers of southern Reading gathered their own church, Reading's Third (West), the parish similarly designated being incorporated as a society in 1828.

When the remainder of Reading (exclusive of North Reading) was divided in 1868 into the towns of Reading and Wakefield, the former municipality carried with it the 1770 church and the latter the ancient church of 1645.



Reading. About 1802, the parish being predominantly Universalist, organized its own church, but neither parish nor its church long survived.

The continuing Congregational church absorbed a local Methodist church in 1892, and took the name Union Congregational Church, incorporating under that title in 1923.

Ministers: Daniel Putnam (ord. 1720; d. 1759)  
Eliab Stone (ord. 1761; d. 1822)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Thomas Taylor (e. 1720; m. 1723)  
John Harnden (e. 1722)  
William Flint (e. 1727)  
Thomas Hutchinson (e. 1732)  
Ebenezer Walcott (e. 1736)  
John Burnap (e. 1748)  
Daniel Putnam (e. 1754)  
Amos Upton (e. 1762)  
Jeremiah Eaton (e. 1774)  
Henry Putnam (e. 1778)  
John Swain (e. 1791)

The ancient records of the church were purportedly retained by the now-extinct Universalist church and society; these could not be located. The extant records are owned and held by the North Reading Congregational Church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1720-1802.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in North Reading, Commencing June 30, 1802: the records from 1720 to June 1802 being in the hands of the Universalists." 1802-1891, with some items copied from CR I.

CR III - Church Records, 1892-1917.

See also The Confession of Faith and Covenant of the Congregational Church in North Reading, Mass. with Lists of the Founders, The Pastors, The Deacons, and The Present Members. January 1, 1852 (Lynn, 1852); Manual of the Union Congregational Church Incorporated Organized June 29, 1720 Incorporated July 16, 1923 North Reading, Massachusetts (Wakefield, 1923).

NORTH ROCHESTER, Church (see Rochester, North).

NORTH SIDE OF IPSWICH RIVER AND SADLOR'S ROCK, Precinct  
(see North Reading).

NORTH SIDE OF THE FERRY, Church at (see Beverly, First  
Parish).

NORTH TITICUT Congregational Church (see Middleboro,  
North).

NORTH WEYMOUTH, Church and Parish (see Weymouth, First,  
East).

NORTH WILBRAHAM, Church and Parish (see Wilbraham).



## NORTON, The Congregational Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Oct. 28, 1714. The parish had a distinct existence from about 1714, but was not incorporated until 1783, the same year in which the Parish Trustees received incorporation.

Ministers: Joseph Avery (ord. 1714; diss. 1749; d. 1770)  
 Joseph Palmer (ord. 1753; d. 1791)  
 Pitt Clarke (ord. 1793; d. 1835)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Nicholas White (e. 1714; diss. and rem. 1737; d. 1743)  
 John Briggs (e. 1730; d. 1750)  
 John Briggs, (e. 1734; diss. under discipline 1734; d. 1756)  
 Joseph Hodges (e. 1736; d. 1745)  
 John Andrews (e. 1746; d. 1763)  
 Benjamin Hodges (e. 1746; d. 1754)  
 Benjamin Copeland (e. 1754; d. 1790)  
 Samuel Dean (e. 1754; d. 1775)  
 Benjamin Pearson (m. 1777; d. 1799)  
 Daniel Dean (e. 1778-1779; d. 1805)  
 Seth Smith (m. 1784; d. 1813)  
 Asa Copeland (e. 1803; res. 1824; d. 1829)  
 Lysander Makepeace (e. 1803; withdrew with orthodox 1832; served as deacon until res. 1835; d. 1859)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned by the church, and deposited with the Town Clerk.

CR I - "Church Records. Church of Christ in Norton. 1714-1846." Vital statistics, 1714-1846; running records, 1792-1846.

CR I COPY & CR II - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Presented to the First Congregational Church in Norton, Mass<sup>ts</sup>, by Rev<sup>d</sup> Amory Gale, M.D. April A.D. 1846.") Chronological arrangement of CR I; church records, 1846-1953.

PR I - "Records, Parish Meetings of Congregational Parish 1st Vol." Precinct/parish records, 1731-1835 (lacuna, 1770-1778). Held by the Norton Public Library.



PR II - "Parish Register. Norton, 1835." Parish records, 1835-present.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1810-1917.

See also for some items no longer extant George F. Clark, History of the Town of Norton, Bristol County, Massachusetts. From 1669 to 1859 (Boston, 1859).

NORTON, Separate (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Aug. 11, 1748 by persons dissatisfied with the autocratic ways and Old Light doctrine of Norton pastor Joseph Avery.

On Jan. 9, 1761, the church's officers administered the first recorded baptism by immersion, marking its entrance upon its Baptist phase; the church voted itself Baptist on March 24, 1761.

Its later history can be briefly told: in 1769, it merged with the Taunton Baptist Society. In 1822, the meeting-house became the center of Freewill Baptist activities, the original Calvinistic Baptists dissolving their "First Baptist Church of Taunton" in 1835, and immediately gathering "The First Baptist Church of Norton."

Minister: William Carpenter (ord. 1748; re-ord. as Baptist minister 1761; d. 1768)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: James Briggs (e. and ord. 1748; joined the 1761 Baptist Church in 1767; e. 1767)  
Phineas Briggs (e. and ord. 1748)

The only extant records of the Separate Congregational church, consisting of its 1748 covenant, are contained in the Backus Papers, owned and held by Andover Newton Theological School's library. Records no longer extant were preserved by George F. Clark, History of the Town of Norton, Bristol County, Massachusetts. From 1669 to 1859



(Boston, 1859). See also Samuel Hopkins Emery, The Ministry of Taunton, with Incidental Notices of Other Professions (Boston, 1853), 2 vols.

NORTON, East End (see Easton).

NORTON, East Precinct (see Easton).

NORTON, A Separate (the South) Precinct (see Mansfield).

NORWELL, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Feb. 2, 1642 as the South Church in Scituate, its parish being organized the same year. The Trustees of a Fund in the South Parish in Scituate were incorporated in 1779, and the parish itself received incorporation in 1854.

When the South Parish became the town of Norwell in 1888, the church and parish names were duly changed.

Ministers: William Wetherell<sup>1</sup> (ord. 1645; d. 1684)

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1. Sometimes given as "Witherell."

Thomas Mighill	(ord. 1684; d. 1689)
Deodat Lawson	(ord. 1694; rem. to England 1698)
Nathaniel Eells	(ord. 1704; d. 1750)
Jonathan Dorby	(ord. 1751; d. 1754)
David Barnes, D.D.	(ord. 1754; d. 1811)
Ruling elders: William Hatch	(e. 1642-1643; d. 1651)
Thomas King	(e. 1651; d. 1691)
Deacons: Thomas Robinson	(e. 1642-1643; d. 1676)
James Torrey	(e. 1642-1643)
Joseph Tilden	(e. 1655; d. 1670)
Thomas King, Jr.	(m. 1686-1704)
Samuel Clap	(m. 1700)
John Jones	(m. ca. 1700)
James Torrey, Jr.	(m. 1701-1704)
Joseph Cushing	(m. ca. 1701)
Stephen Clap	(m. 1719-1721)
----- Jacob	(m. 1723) <sup>1</sup>
George King	(m. 1726-1731)
Joseph Clap	(m. 1732-1749)
Joseph Cushing, Jr.	(m. 1751-1754)
Isaac Buck	(m. 1751)
Joseph Jacob	(m. 1751-1754)
John Ruggles	(e. 1755; d. 1812-1813)
John James, Jr.	(e. 1755 ?; m. 1772)
John James III	(m. ca. 1770)
Elisha James	(m. ca. 1780-1833)

The extant records are owned by the church, and deposited with a local bank. Microfilm copies are owned by the church and by Andover Harvard Theological Library, Cambridge.

CR I - "A Catalogue of the names of all such as have been baptised by Guilielmus Wetherell, pastor to y<sup>e</sup> Seconde Church, Scituate, 1645." Baptisms, 1645-1689; 1708 joint action of church and precinct; 1783 precinct acts.<sup>2</sup>

CR II - "The Church Book." 1751-1754, 1798.

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1. Possibly the Deacon Joseph Jones mentioned 1751-1754.

2. Tradition has it that Deodat Lawson, when he removed to England, took with him the records of his pastorate.



CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1754-1810.<sup>1</sup>

CR IV - "Church Records, Ministry of Samuel Deane." 1810-1833.

CR V - Church Records, 1836-1908.

VS I, II, III, IV, V - George C. Turner, "Records of the Second Church of Scituate, Now the First Unitarian Church of Norwell, Mass.," NEHGR, LVII (1903), 82-86; Sarah R. Damon and Ella Bates, ibid., 178-184; Sarah R. Damon, ibid., 318-324; Wilford J. Litchfield, ibid., 398-403, LVIII (1904), 82-90, 168-176, 260-267, 387-391, LIX (1905), 74-79, 134-140, 308-315, 387-392, LX (1906), 61-66, 175-182, 271-274, 335-340, LXI (1906), 56-59, 172-177, 288-292, 372-375.

Reprinted by Wilford J. Litchfield, Scituate, Massachusetts, Second Church Records (in abstract), 1645-1850 (Boston, 1909).

PR I - "Records of the South Parish, Scituate, 1642-1797."

PR II - "Records of the South Parish, Scituate, 1797-1886."

PR III - "Records of the First Parish in South Scituate, 1881-1922."

Miscellaneous records: Parish Fund Corporation Accounts, 1864-1906.

See also Samuel Deane, History of Scituate, Massachusetts, from Its First Settlement to 1831 (Boston, 1831; rep. Scituate, 1899).

NORWICH, Church (see Huntington).

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1. The lacuna in the records, 1754-1810, was remarked by Deane, op. cit., in 1831.



## NORWOOD (C).

The church was gathered on June 23, 1736 as the South Church in Dedham, the Second (South) Precinct having been set off in 1730.<sup>1</sup> The Proprietors of the Meeting House were incorporated in 1829, and dissolved in 1882. Mention should be made of the unusual fact of the church's having been incorporated as a "body politick" by an act of the State Legislature in 1824.

In 1872, the precinct became the town of Norwood. The First Congregational Parish was incorporated in 1882, the First Congregational Church in 1884.

Ministers: Thomas Balch (ord. 1736; d. 1774)  
Jabez Chickering (ord. 1776; d. 1812)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Everett (e. 1736; d. 1751)  
Capt. Ezra Morse (e. 1736; d. 1760)  
John Dean (e. 1736; d. 1770)  
Nathaniel Sumner, Esq. (e. 1752; d. 1802)  
Ebenezer Everett (e. 1760; d. 1778)  
Lt. James Kingsbury (e. 1778; d. 1814)  
Capt. Ebenezer Everett (e. 1778; d. 1808)  
Capt. Jesse Gay (e. 1802; d. ca. 1836)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited with a local bank.

CR I - "This Book belongs to the Church of Christ -- in Dedham -- Second Parish -- And contains in it a Short History of the Settlement of Said Church, Together with Some other Things thôt Material to be recorded -- June 30th. 1736." 1736-1775. Bound with PR I (cf. below).

CR II - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Church Book 1776 to .") 1776-1824.

CR III - "Records of the South Church in Dedham." (Flyleaf: "The Third Book of Records of the South Church in Dedham, containing an Account of the Proceedings of the said Church, in their Ecclesiastical Capacity, from June 5, 1824, the time when the Church was incorporated

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1. The South Precinct/Parish was sometimes known as "Tiot" Precinct/Parish.



and made a Body Politick, by an Act of the Legislature of this Commonwealth.") 1824-1878.<sup>1</sup>

CR PUB - Don Gleason Hill, The Record of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, and Admissions to the Church and Dismissals Therefrom, Transcribed from the Church Records of the Town of Dedham, Massachusetts. 1638-1845 (Dedham, 1888). Vital statistics and some church votes, from CR I, II, III.

CR IV - "Records. First Congregational Church, Norwood. Vol. 4." 1879-1919.

C Inc I - "The Records of the South Church of Dedham in their Political Capacity." 1824-1871.

C Inc II - "Records of the Church in their Political Capacity, 1872-1890."

PR I - "Novemb<sup>r</sup>: 1730. Thise Booke Was Bought by John [illegible] for the Precinct Laitly Seett of from Deadham and Stoughton To be a Book of records Price Eaughteen Shillings James Fales Jun<sup>r</sup> Clark for sd Precinct." Precinct/parish records, 1730/31-1800. Bound with CR I (cf. above).

PR II - "Dedham South Parish Book of Records AD 1801 Bot by Sam<sup>l</sup>. H. Deane Price 2 Dol. 70 Cents." 1801-1873, with parish orders, 1807-1848.

PR III - "Records." 1873-1895.

PROP I - Records of the Proprietors of the Meeting House, 1829-1860.

Miscellaneous records: Church Committee Records, 1879-1893, 1893-1905.

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1. The extraordinary act of incorporation referred to here in the flyleaf title is reflected in the volumes cited later as C Inc I and C Inc II.



NUKKEHKUMMEES Indian Congregational Church (see Dartmouth, Nukkehkummees Indian Congregational Church).

OAK BLUFFS, Sanchacantacket<sup>1</sup> Indian Church (C), extinct.

It would appear that this church, gathered in 1659,<sup>2</sup> was the first Indian church gathered in Massachusetts.<sup>2</sup> Its original location was northwest of Edgartown, an area now lying in the township of Oak Bluffs.

In 1670, the Rev. Messrs. John Cotton, Jr. and John Eliot, together with Gov. Thomas Mayhew, assisted the Indian congregation in electing and installing native officers. These included Hiacoomes as pastor, John Tackanash as teacher, John Nohnoso and Joshua Momatchegin as ruling elders, and Kestumin as deacon.

However, the Indians who lived on Chappaquiddick Island just east of the Vineyard found the frequent channel crossings hazardous, and in 1675, the Sanchacantacket church was divided into two independent churches. Hiacoomees and Joshua Momatchegin were assigned to Chappaquiddick; John Tackanash (pastor), John Nohnoso (ruling elder) and one Lazarus or Kokesap (deacon) remained at Sanchacantacket. In 1683 because of Hiacoomes' growing feeble, the two churches were reunited, but parted again after his death in 1690, each to go its own separate way until becoming

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1. Variously given as "Sanchekantacket" or "Sengekontaket."

2. Frederick L. Weis, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," CSMP, XXXVIII (1947-1951), 183, thinks the first Massachusetts Indian church was located on Chappaquiddick Island (cf. EDGARTOWN, Chappaquiddick Indian Church) and assigns it the 1659 date. However, a careful reading of the letters written by John Cotton, Jr. and Thomas Mayhew, Sr. ca. 1674 (MHSC, 1st Ser., I [1792, rep. 1806], Ch. ix) suggests that the usually reliable Weis erred at this point, and that the first gathered Indian church was indeed located at Sanchacantacket.



extinct early in the nineteenth century. The last notice of the Sanchacantacket church is dated ca. 1806. See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	Thomas Mayhew, Jr.	(ord.? Edgartown First 1642; d. 1657)
	Gov. Thomas Mayhew	(Vineyard governor; sett. Edgartown First 1658, ministered to seven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1681)
	Peter Folger	(assistant to Mayhew, Jr. in Indian missions 1654-rem. 1663 to Nantucket; became Baptist; d. 1690)
	John Cotton, Jr.	(invited Edgartown First 1664, possibly not legally sett., but ministered there and carried on Indian missions 1665; rem. 1667; d. 1699)
	Hiacoomes	(Indian preacher, converted by Thomas Mayhew, Jr. 1643; ord. pastor here 1670; sett. pastor Chappaquiddick 1675- <u>ca.</u> 1683; d. 1690)
	John Tackanash	(Indian preacher, ord. teacher here 1670; became pastor 1675; ministered to four other Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1684)
	John Mayhew	(sett. West Tisbury 1673, associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1688/1689)
	Japeth (Pamc)hannit <sup>1</sup>	(Indian preacher, sett. Gay Head Indian Congregational Church 1693; also served here and Chilmark [Nashuakemmuck]; d. 1712)

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1. Sometimes given as "Japeth Hannit, Jr."

Experience Mayhew	(sett. Indian missionary 1694, ministered to nine Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1758)
Job Peosin <sup>1</sup>	(Indian preacher 1698; d. 1723)
Sowamog	(Indian preacher 1712; d. 1716)
Samuel Wiswall	(ord. Edgartown First 1713, some missionary work; d. 1746)
Joash Pannos <sup>2</sup>	(Indian preacher; ord. Gay Head Indian Congregational Church 1716; d. 1720)
Hosea Manhut	(Indian preacher 1720; also active West Tisbury [Christiantown]; d. <u>ca.</u> 1724)
Zachariah Mayhew	(ord. Chilmark 1767, associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1806)
Ruling elders: John Nohnoso	(ord. 1670; d. 1678-1683)
Joshua Momatchegin <sup>3</sup>	(ord. 1670; served as ruling elder at Edgartown [Chappaquiddick] 1675- <u>ca.</u> 1683; probably ruling elder of reunited church <u>ca.</u> 1683-1690; elev. pastor Chappaquiddick 1690; d. 1703)
John Shohkow <sup>4</sup>	(ruling elder 1683; also associated with West Tisbury [Christiantown]; d. 1690)
Isaac Ompany <sup>5</sup>	(ruling elder 1713; also associated West Tisbury [Christiantown]; d. 1717)

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1. Sometimes called "Russel."

2. Sometimes given as "Panuos" or "Panneu."

3. Sometimes given as "Mummeecheeg."

4. Sometimes called "Assaquanhut."

5. Sometimes given as "Ompanit."



Deacons:	Kestumin	(ord. 1670)
	Lazarus <sup>1</sup>	(ord. 1675 ?; d. 1677)
	Paul Holmes-Hole <sup>2</sup>	(d. 1688)
	David <sup>3</sup>	(probably e. ca. 1683; also associated with Gay Head Indian Congregational Church; d. 1698)
	Thomas Dockakonnit	(probably e. 1698; d. 1703)
	Jonathan Amos	(e. deacon Chappaquiddick 1698, probably served both there and here; e. pastor Chappaquiddick 1703; also associated with Gay Head Indian Congregational Church; d. 1706)
	Abel Wauwompuhque	(probably e. ca. 1706; Indian preacher from 1712; also associated with Gay Head Indian Congregational Church and Praying Town; d. 1722)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

#### OAKHAM (C).

Originally known as Rutland West Wing, in 1759 this area became a precinct, and in 1762, was incorporated as the town of Oakham.

The Irish Presbyterian population for some years worshipped with the Rutland Presbyterians (seceders from the ministry of Rev. Thomas Frink), but on Aug. 28, 1767 gathered a Presbyterian church in Oakham.

Difficulties with the first minister saw the town voting

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1. Sometimes called "Kokesap."
  2. Sometimes called "Mashquattuhkooit."
  3. Sometimes called "Wuttinomanomin."



(in the capacity of a society) to adopt Congregational principles in 1772; the next year, the minister resigned. Although there is no record of the old church's having been dissolved, it was reorganized by act of ecclesiastical council on June 23, 1773.

Tension between the liberal and orthodox wings of the church saw a division early in the nineteenth century. The pastor resigned his parish responsibilities in 1828, but continued to minister to the orthodox (under the title of "The Evangelical Congregational Society") as senior pastor until his death in 1842. The liberal element settled no minister, although it met occasionally as a society. In 1829 the orthodox settled a junior pastor, and when he resigned because of ill health in 1832, provided a successor whose ministry was so acceptable to the liberals that the two parties were reunited, the original society being assimilated into the younger organization.

Ministers:	John Strickland	(called 1766; ord. [Presbyterian] 1768; disp. 1773; d. 1823)
	Daniel Tomlinson	(ord. 1786; res. and disp. 1828; continued to minister until d. 1842)

Ruling elders: although the church must have had such officers during its Presbyterian phase, no record of that period is extant.

Deacons:	James Dean	(ca. 1767-1773)
	----- White	(ca. 1767-1773)
	Jesse Allen	(e. 1773; d. 1816)
	Jonathan Fitts	(e. 1776; d. 1792)
	Samuel Davis	(e. 1793; d. 1817)

No records of the Presbyterian phase of the church's history survive; the extant records are owned by the church, and deposited at the Town Hall.

CR I - Church Records, 1773-1860. Sketchy to 1816.

CR II - "Vol. II. Records of the Evangelical Congregational Church at Oakham, Mass. Organized June 23rd 1773." 1860-1919.

SR I - (Evangelical) Society Records, 1829-1855.

SR II - (Evangelical) Society Records, 1856-1888.



Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors Rate Book, 1842-1860; (Evangelical) Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1829-1883, 1882-1917.

See also Manual of the Congregational Church of Oakham, Mass. 1862. (Worcester, 1862); H. B. Wright and E. D. Harvey, The Settlement and Story of Oakham, Massachusetts (New Haven, 1947).

OCCAWAN (or Oggawame or Okorwaw) Praying Town and Indian Congregational Church (see Nantucket, Occawan Praying Town and Indian Congregational Church).

OHKONKEMME Praying Town and Indian Congregational Church (see West Tisbury, Christiantown Praying Town and Indian Congregational Church).

ORANGE, Church (see New Salem, North).

ORANGE, District and Society and Church (see North Orange).

## ORLEANS, Federated (C).

The original church in the area was that gathered at Nauset in Eastham in 1646. In 1718, a more commodious house of worship was erected in southern Eastham (now Orleans), and in the following year, the southern and northern parts of the town were made into distinct precincts. The minister of the old church elected to serve the South Church in Eastham, and it is with this church that we have to do.<sup>1</sup> In 1797, Orleans was made a town, and the church's name was changed to the First Church in Orleans. Similarly, the parish (organized in 1719) exchanged the title "South Congregational Parish in Eastham" for "Congregational Parish in Orleans."

In 1938, this church federated with a local Universalist body (gathered in 1833), and in 1939 took the name "Federated Church of Orleans."

Ministers:	John Mayo	(sett. 1646; rem. 1655; d. 1676)
	Thomas Crosby	(sett. 1655-1670 as "religious teacher," probably unord.; d. 1702)
	Samuel Treat	(ord. 1675; d. 1717)
	Samuel Osborn	(ord. 1718; remained 1719 with South [Orleans] Precinct and church; dism. 1738; d. 1774)
	Joseph Crocker	(ord. 1739; d. 1772)
	Jonathan Bascom	(ord. 1772; d. 1807)

Ruling elders: there being no extant records antedating 1772, it is not known if the church employed ruling elders before that time. None are recorded after 1772.

Deacons: John Paine<sup>2</sup> (m. 1695-1718)

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1. In the absence of records, it is impossible to determine whether either church made a beginning de novo in 1719. But it is worth noting that the Falmouth church records refer to the now-Orleans church as "The First or South Church in Eastham" (FALMOUTH, CR I, 11).

2. See "Deacon John Paine's Journal," MD, VIII (1906), 180-184, 227-231, IX (1907), 49-51, 97-99, 136-140.



Thomas Crosby <sup>1</sup>	(d. 1731)
Edward Knowles <sup>1</sup>	(d. 1740)
Samuel Freeman <sup>1</sup>	(m. 1746; d. 1753)
John Freeman <sup>1</sup>	(m. 1750-1755)
Jonathan Higgins	(m. 1762; d. 1792)
Solomon Pepper	(e. 1772; d. 1786)
Joshua Doane	(e. 1773; d. 1791)
Elisha Smith	(e. 1786; d. 1795)
Abiel Cole	(e. 1791; d. 1805)
Richard Sparrow	(e. 1795; d. 1811)
Judah Ropes	(e. 1795; d. 1845)

As early as 1907 (see CR PUB), it was remarked that no records antedating 1772 were extant; the surviving records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the first Chh In Eastham. 1772." 1772-1835.

VS - "Bill of Mortality in the South Parish in Eastham 1772-1828."

CR II - "Records of The first Congregational Church in Orleans, Mass. 1835. Commencing with the ministry of the Rev. S. Pratt." 1835-1870.

CR PUB - Stanley W. Smith, "Records of the First Church in Orleans, Formerly the First Church in Eastham, Mass.," MD, X (1908), 165-168, 230-233, XI (1909), 252-253, XII (1910), 151-152, XIII (1911), 90-94, 162-165, XIV (1912), 53-56, 123-127, 137-139, XV (1913), 13-20. The project of publishing these records was never completed.

CR III - "Am. Church Register. Cong. Church Orleans, Mass." 1870-1894.

PROP I - "The Book of Records of the South Proprietors In Eastham. July the 28th 1743." Proprietors records, 1744-1876.

SR I - "Parish Records." Actually society records, 1826-1839.

SR II - "Congregational Society's Record Book Nov. 4, 1839 to Feb. 27, 1864."

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1870-1895; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1839-1865, 1876-1882.

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1. These deacons may have served here, but it is also possible that they remained with the Eastham church after the division of 1719. See Pratt's and Freeman's writings, cited below.



The town holds two volumes of precinct records, 1731-1761 and 1765-1772.

See also Articles of Faith, Covenant, and Discipline of the First Congregational Church, in Orleans, Mass. (Boston, 1831; rep. Harwich, 1888); Enoch Pratt, A Comprehensive History, Ecclesiastical and Civil, of Eastham, Wellfleet and Orleans, County of Barnstable, Mass. From 1644 to 1844 (Yarmouth, 1844); Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod (Boston, 1860, 1862), 2 vols.; Ruth L. Barnard, History of The Congregational Church, Orleans, Mass. (Harwich, 1947).

ORLEANS, Potanumaquut Indian Church (C), extinct.

Potanumaquut was listed by the Rev. Messrs. Rawson and Danforth in 1698 as a praying town; when the church was gathered there is unknown.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	Richard Bourne	(ord. Mashpee 1670, associated with fourteen Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1682)
	Samuel Treat	(ord. Eastham 1675, associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1717)
	Thomas Coshaumag	(Indian preacher, ca. 1698)
	Daniel Greenleaf	(ord. Yarmouth First 1708; associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1763)
	Joshua Ralph	(Indian preacher, 1719-1760)
	Solomon Briant	(Indian preacher, also associated with Bourne [Herring Pond(s) and Mannamit], Mashpee, Yarmouth [Matakees] 1720-d. 1775)
	Joseph Bourne	(ord. Mashpee 1729, also ministered to seven Indian praying towns and churches; dism. Mashpee 1742; d. 1767)



Joseph Crocker	(ord. Orleans First 1739; d. 1772)
Gideon Hawley	(ord. 1754 to Indian mission field; inst. Mashpee 1758, associated with eleven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1807)
Joseph Briant	(Indian preacher ord. here 1758, also associated with Bourne [Pocasset] and Mashpee; d. 1759)
John Ralph	(Indian preacher, also associ- ated with Harwich [Satucket Praying Town], 1762-1770)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

OTIS, Loudon, First (C), extinct.

According to Frederick L. Weis,<sup>1</sup> the first church at Loudon in Otis was gathered in 1772, and disbanded by an ecclesiastical council in 1775.

Minister: George Throop<sup>2</sup> (ord. 1772; church disbanded 1775; served as chaplain during Revolutionary War 1776)

There are no extant records of this church.

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1. The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 204, 265.

2. Sometimes given as "Troop."

OTIS, Loudon, Second (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 2, 1779; never settled a minister; and was absorbed into the present Congregational Church of Otis in 1806.

Ministers: none.

Ruling elders: none.

Deacon: Jonathan Norton (m. 1795; d. 1830)

The extant records are owned and held by the present Congregational Church of Otis, which continued its record in the same book.

CR I - "Records of the votes and proceedings of the Church of Christ in Loudon." 1787-1837.

CR I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Otis. Cong. Church." Copy made in 1900. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

OTIS, Bethlehem (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Sept. 14, 1794; never settled a minister; and was absorbed into the present Congregational Church of Otis in 1806.

Ministers: none.

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Seth Kingsley (e. 1800; d. 1831)  
John Webster (e. 1800)

There are no extant records of this church.



## [OTIS (C).]

In 1806, a society was organized under the name of the United Congregational Society in Bethlehem and Loudon; this body absorbed the survivors of the second Loudon church and the Bethlehem church. In 1810, the present Congregational Church of Otis was covenanted; it settled its first minister in 1815.

This church claims unbroken succession from the second Loudon church, and therefore all the records it owns and holds are cited below. However, the records themselves testify to a beginning de novo in 1810.

CR I - "Records of the votes and proceedings of the Church of Christ in Loudon." 1787-1837.

CR I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Otis. Cong. Church." Copy made in 1900. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR II - "Records of the Church in Otis. Vol. 2nd." 1832-1914.

SR I - Society Records, 1807-1809, with financial accounts, 1826-1829, 1837-1904.

SR II - Society Records, 1827-1911.

# OXFORD, French Huguenot, extinct.

The French Huguenot church at Oxford was gathered in 1686 by some thirty refugee families who had migrated to America after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. The massacre of one family by Indians in 1696 prompted them to abandon the town, most of them settling in Boston. A second attempt at settling Oxford was made in 1699, but failed by 1713.

Ministers: Daniel Bondet (ord. in the Church of England; sett. here 1686; rem. to Boston 1694; d. 1722)



James Labourie (sett. 1699; rem. to New York City 1704; d. 1734)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of records, little is known of the lay officers of this church. A petition of the Oxford Huguenots, asking the Boston congregation for financial aid in 1700, is signed by "elders of the French congregation" Peter Chardon and Rene Grignon. Another elder, possibly, was Jean Millet.

It has long been assumed that any records of this church were taken away by Rev. Bondet in 1694. See A. Holmes, "Memoir of the French Protestants, A.D. 1686; with a Sketch of the Entire History of the Protestants of France," MHSC, 3rd Ser., II (1830), 1-83; E. T. Fisher (trans.), Report of a French Protestant Refugee in Boston [1687-1688] (Brooklyn, 1868); George F. Daniels, The Huguenots in the Nipmuck Country or Oxford Prior to 1713 (Boston, 1880); Charles C. Smith, "The French Protestants in Boston," in Justin Winsor (ed.), Memorial History of Boston (Boston, 1880-1881), II, pp. 249-268; Worthington C. Ford, "Ezekiel Carre and the French Church in Boston," MHSP, LII (1919), 121-132; Percival Merritt, "The French Protestant Church in Boston," CSMP, XXVI (1924-1926), 323-348, privately reprinted (Cambridge, 1927).

#### OXFORD (C).

The church was gathered on Jan. 18, 1720/21, and incorporated in 1887. The Proprietors of the First Congregational Meetinghouse were incorporated in 1830, and dissolved in 1887.

Ministers:	John Campbell	(ord. 1721; d. 1761)
	Joseph Bowman	(inst. 1764; dism. 1782; d. 1806)
	Elias Dudley	(ord. 1791; dism. 1799; d. 1808)
	Josiah Moulton	(ord. 1805; dism. 1813; d. 1827)

Ruling elders: none.



Deacons:	John Town	(e. 1721; d. 1740)
	Daniel Hovey	(e. 1729; d. 1742)
	Samuel Davis	(e. 1735; d. 1760)
	Jonathan Town	(e. 1739; d. 1771)
	John Wilson	(e. 1743; d. 1778)
	Thomas Davis	(e. 1760; d. 1778)
	Samuel Harris	(e. 1771; d. 1798)
	John Davis	(e. 1778; d. 1800)
	Ebenezer Humphrey	(e. 1798; d. 1836)
	John Dana	(e. 1798; d. 1816)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited in a local bank.

CR I - "Records, First Congregational Church, Oxford, Mass. 1721." 1721-1847.

CR II - "Records of the First Church in Oxford." 1848-1887, with vital statistics to 1957.

CR III - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Oxford, Mass." 1887-1929.

PROP I - "Records of the Proprietors of the First Congregational Meetinghouse in Oxford." 1830-1887.

[PALMER, Thorndike (C), inactive.]

Traditionally, it is held that this church, originally Presbyterian, was gathered in 1730 in what was then known as "the Elbow Settlement." However, one document in the State Archives reports that when the first minister was ordained in 1734, "in sd. Plantation at the sd time there was no gathered church."<sup>1</sup>

The church continued under the jurisdiction of the

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1. See J. H. Temple, History of the Town of Palmer, Massachusetts, early known as The Elbow Tract: including Records of the Plantation, District and Town, 1716-1889, with a Genealogical Register (Springfield, 1889), p. 144.



Londonderry Presbytery, erecting a new meetinghouse in what is now Palmer Center in 1798. Ca. 1811, the transition from Presbyterian to Congregational polity was effected, and in 1831, the First Parish was officially organized. In 1847, the old (First) parish transferred its center of activity to the village of Thorndike, and a Second Parish and Church were created at Depot Village. Due to the closing of the Thorndike Mills, the First Church and Parish were unable to support a resident minister after 1925. In 1929, this church and parish incorporated as a single entity, and soon after became an adjunct of the Union Evangelical Church (gathered in 1870) at the village of Three Rivers. It continues today as an inactive church, reporting a half-dozen members.

Ministers: John Harvey (sett. 1730; ord. 1734; dism. 1748)  
 Robert Burns (ord. 1753; dism. 1757-1758)  
 Moses Baldwin (inst. 1761; dism. 1811; d. 1813)

Ruling elders: Seth Shaw (m. 1753)  
 Samuel Shaw, Sr. (m. 1753)  
 David Spear, Sr. (m. 1753)  
 Robert Bratten, Sr. (m. 1753)  
 James Smith (m. 1753)  
 Joshua Shaw (m. 1753)  
 Barnard McNitt (e. and ord. 1755)  
 William McClanathan (e. and ord. 1755)  
 Samuel Shaw, Sr. (e. and ord. 1755)  
 David Spear, Jr. (e. and ord. 1755)

Deacons: John Smith (m. 1755-1784)  
 John McMaster (m. 1777-1786)  
 Thomas King (m. 1778-1789)  
 Seth Shaw (m. 1772-1773)  
 Joshua Shaw (m. 1798)  
 Gordon Sedgewick (m. 1801-1803)

There are no known records antedating the twentieth century, a loss reported remarked by Temple, op. cit., pp. 6, 145, in 1889.

See also Articles of Faith and Covenant, First Church, Palmer (Palmer, 1872); History and Manual of the Second Congregational Church and Society, of Palmer, Mass. 1847-1895. Prepared by the Pastor and Clerk (Palmer, 1895); Temple, op. cit.; O. P. Allen, "Historical Address Delivered . . . at the Semi-Centennial of the Second Congregational



Church," The Palmer Journal, XLVIII, 1 (April 2, 1897), 1, 4; Elizabeth Miller, typescript, "Two Hundredth Anniversary, Congregational Church, First Church, Palmer (Thorndike), Mass.," 1930, held by church clerk; Edward A. Reynolds, "Thorndike's Old Home Festivities," The Palmer Journal-Register, XCIX - 33 (Nov. 10, 1948), 2, 7; Allen F. Davis, typescript, "Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Years of the First Congregational Churches," 1955, held by church clerk.

PALMER'S RIVER Church (see Rehoboth, Church of 1721).

PARSONS, West Church and Parish (see West Newbury, Second).

PARTRIDGEFIELD, East Parish (see Peru).

PARTRIDGEFIELD, First Church (see Peru).

PARTRIDGEFIELD, West Church and Parish (see Hinsdale).

PAWTUCKET Congregational Church and Society (see Lowell).

PAXTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 3, 1767, and incorporated in 1894. In the latter year, the First Parish (originally incorporated in 1830) was dissolved.

Ministers:	Silas Bigelow	(ord. 1767; d. 1769)
	Alexander Thayer	(ord. 1770; dism. 1782; d. 1807)
	John Foster	(ord. 1785; dism. 1789; d. 1832)
	Daniel Grosvenor	(inst. 1794; dism. 1802; d. 1834)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Oliver Witt	(e. 1767 ?; d. 1807)
	Ephraim Moore	(d. 1773)
	Timothy Barrett	(d. 1799)
	David Davis	(e. ?; reappointed 1793; d. 1824)
	Jonah Howe	(e. 1785-1793; d. 1832)
	Abel Brown	(e. 1785-1793; d. 1824)
	Nathan Swan	(e. ?; reappointed 1793; d. 1841)

The records antedating 1871 could not be found, although the Historical Summary published in 1873 reported no records for the years 1768-1793, but indicated the existence of records for 1793-1871. These latter books have since disappeared; the few records surviving are held by the Town Clerk.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1793-1871.

CR II - "Records of the First Congregational Church of Paxton, Mass. Sept. 26, 1871." 1871-1893.

CR III - "Church Records, Paxton, Mass. 1894." 1894-1917.



PR I - "Records of the first Parish in Paxton June 14th 1830." 1830-1876.

PR II - Parish Records, 1877-1894.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1864-1894; Parish Committee Records, 1831-1893.

See also Historical Summary, Statement of Polity, By-Laws, Confession of Faith, Covenant and Names of the Members of the Congregational Church, Paxton, Mass. 1873 (Worcester, 1873); D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Worcester County, Massachusetts with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1889), pp. 568-584; One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Town of Paxton, Massachusetts. Celebrated June thirtieth 1915 (Worcester, 1917).

PAXTON, Second (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1785, by some twenty persons who objected to the settlement of John Foster over the First Church and Parish. In 1793, on the advice of a mutually-invited ecclesiastical council, the two churches were reunited as the First Church.

No records of the Second Church are known to exist. See D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Worcester County, Massachusetts with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1889), pp. 568-584.

PEABODY, South (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 23, 1713 as the Third Church in Salem. It was located in the Middle Precinct in Salem, previously incorporated in 1710.



In 1752 the area was ceded to the town of Danvers. The parochial organization was reorganized as the South Parish in Danvers, and the church took the name of the Second (South) Parish Church in Danvers. The parish was dissolved in 1793, being replaced by the Proprietors of the South Meeting House in the South Precinct of Danvers.

In 1868 the precinct became the town of Peabody, and the church took the title of South Church in Peabody, sometimes called "The Old South Church."

Ministers:	Benjamin Prescott	(ord. 1713; dism. 1756; d. 1777)
	Nathan Holt	(ord. 1759; d. 1792)
	Samuel Mead	(ord. 1794; dism. 1803; d. 1818)
	Samuel Walker	(ord. 1805; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Abraham Pierce	(e. 1713)
	Samuel Cutler	(e. 1713)
	David Foster	(e. 1732)
	Cornelius Cutler	(e. 1732; m. 1758)
	Malachi Felton	(e. 1743; m. 1758)
	Benjamin Sawyer	(e. 1761)
	Nathan Proctor	(e. 1775; m. 1796)
	Joseph Seccomb	(e. 1781; m. 1803)
	Joseph Poor	(e. 1796; m. 1805)
	John Shillaber	(e. 1796; rem. and dism. 1800)

There are no extant church records antedating 1793. The surviving records are owned by the church, and deposited in the Peabody Institute, Peabody.

VS I - Henry Wheatland, "Baptisms by Rev. Benjamin Prescott of Salem, Middle Precinct; Now South Danvers," EIHC, VI (1864), 258-268. 1714-1756.

VS II - Henry Wheatland, "Baptisms by Rev. Messrs. Prescott and Holt, of Salem, Middle Precinct, (now South Danvers)," EIHC, VII (1865), 40-48. 1726-1772.

VS III - Henry Wheatland, "Baptisms by Rev. Holt of Salem, Middle Precinct, - now South Danvers," EIHC, VII (1865), 95-96, 140-144, 146-150. 1772-1790.

CR I - "Record Book Belonging to the south Chh in Danvers." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Second chh in Danvers containing



all the doings of this chh from the year 1793 - Beginning with their doings which respect the settlement of Mr Samuel Mead over this chh -- .") 1793-1841.

CR II - "Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Second Congregational Church in Danvers. From May 25th. 1840 to Oct. 24 1871.")

CR III - "South Church Records, Peabody." 1872-1900.

PR I - "1711 to 1739." Parish records, 1710-1739.

PR II - "1738 to 1757." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Records, Belonging to the Middle Parish in Salem anno Dom 1738. The 2d Book in the parish since the meeting house be raysed.") 1739-1758.

PR III - "Parish Book y<sup>e</sup> 3rd 1757 to 1778." (Flyleaf: "The 3rd Book A Book of Records Belonging to the South Parish in Danvers -- Began Decr. y<sup>e</sup> 12th 1757 by Samll King P Clerk.") 1757-1779.

PR IV - "South Parish Danvers 1779 to 1791."

PR V - "South Parish Danvers 1791 to 1796." 1791-1797.

PROP I - "Book of Records of the Proprietors of the South meetinghouse Danvers Began -- December 11th 1793 1793 to 1813."

PROP II - "Records Proprietors of South Meeting House Danvers." 1813-1844.

PROP III - "Records. Proprietor's of South Meeting House Danvers." 1845-1886.

PROP IV - "Records Proprietors of South Meeting House Peabody." 1886-1905.

Miscellaneous records: Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1797-1839, 1839-1856; Pew Deeds, 1844-1872.

See also The Articles of Faith and Covenant of The South Church, Danvers; with a List of the Members (Salem, 1845); The Articles of Faith and Covenant of The South Church, South Danvers; with a List of the Members (Salem, 1859); The Articles of Faith and Covenant of The South Church, Peabody: with a List of the Members (Boston, 1873 and



1885); Bessie R. Buxton, typescript, "An Excommunication Trial in the South Church," 1950, owned and held by Essex Institute, Salem; Bessie R. Buxton, "History of the South Church, Peabody, Formerly in the Middle Precinct of Salem, Later Known as the South Parish of Danvers," EIHC, LXXXVII (1951), 41-64, 178-207, 341-372, LXXXVIII (1952), 167-198, and rep. under the title, History of the First Hundred Years of the South Church, Peabody, Mass. (Peabody, 1951); anonymous typescript, "A Brief History of the South Congregational Church, Peabody Square, Peabody, Massachusetts," owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston.

[PELHAM (C).]

The church was gathered as a Presbyterian church between 1737 and 1744; its (First) parish was organized in 1786. Early in the 1820's, the minister declared for Congregationalism, and by 1837 the church had abandoned Presbyterianism.<sup>1</sup> In that latter year, the church was reorganized as the Evangelical Congregational Church. The parish became the Congregational Society by virtue of reorganization in 1862. The present United Church of Pelham is descended from the old town church, having passed through two successive federations in 1936 and 1959.

Ministers:	Robert Abercrombie	(ord. 1744; disp. 1755; d. 1780)
	Richard Crouch Graham	(ord. 1763; d. 1771)
	Nathaniel Merrill	(inst. 1775; rem. 1781- 1783; d. 1791)
	Thomas F. Oliver <sup>2</sup>	(ord. 1782 ?; disp. and rem. n.d.; d. 1797)

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1. A short-lived (1822-1827) Calvinistic Church was gathered in protest against the minister's conversion to Congregationalism.

2. The oldest evidence indicates that these are the correct dates for Rev. Oliver (Harvard, Class of 1775).

However, Parmenter, op. cit., claims that the Oliver in the case was William Oliver, ord. 1793, disp. 1804. Earlier, in History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers (Philadelphia, 1879), I, 554, the list of ministers cited as Merrill's successor one Andrew Oliver, called in 1792, disp. 1804, and claimed his successor, Elijah Brainard, was ord. 1805 and disp. 1811. Listings of Dartmouth College Alumni, however, do not place Brainard at Pelham until about 1811 (he d. 1828).



Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of any records antedating the twentieth century, little is known of this church's lay officers. Parish records extant in 1898 mentioned Deacons Ebenezer Gray and Nathaniel Sampson in 1799, and a Deacon Thompson in 1806.

C. O. Parmenter, History of Pelham, Mass. from 1738 to 1898 including the Early History of Prescott (Amherst, 1898), remarked the loss of all records for the Presbyterian period, and the destruction by fire in 1890 of the church's nineteenth century records.

PELHAM, East Church and Parish (see Prescott).

PELHAM, Second Church and Parish (see Prescott).

PEMBROKE, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Oct. 22, 1712, and the First Parish or Precinct organized in the same year. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1816.

Ministers:	Daniel Lewis	(ord. 1712; d. 1753)
	Thomas Smith	(inst. 1754; d. 1788)
	Kilborn Whitman	(ord. 1787; dism. 1796; d. 1835)
	James Hawley	(ord. 1798; d. 1800)
	Morrill Allen	(ord. 1801; res. 1841)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Stockbridge	(e. 1712-1713; m. 1726)
	Joseph Ford	(e. 1712-1713 ?)
	Jacob Mitchell	(m. 1720)
	Josiah Smith	(m. 1740)
	Joseph Stockbridge, Jr.	(m. 1753-1754) <sup>1</sup>
	Samuel Jacobs	(m. 1753-1764)
	Jeremiah Hall	(e. 1773; res. 1795)
	Isaac Hatch	(e. 1773; m. 1777)
	Josiah Smith	(e. 1773; res. 1795)
	Gideon T. White	(e. 1795; m. 1800)
	David Hall	(e. 1795)

The records are held by the Town Clerk, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Church Records begun by the Revd Daniel Lewis first Pastor, of the first Church in Pembroke.") Records and vital statistics, 1711-1714; lacuna, 1714-1754; vital statistics and scattered votes, 1754-1796; vital statistics and ministers' memoranda, 1796-1899.

VS I - "A List of Communicants." 1712-1755.

VS II - Baptisms, 1735-1742.

VS PUB - H. H. Edes, "Marriages Solemnized in Pembroke, Mass., by the Rev. Thomas Smith, 1755-1787," NEHGR, XXXI (1877), 68-75. Copied from a private journal owned by Smith's descendents.

PR I - Precinct Records, 1746-1764.

PR II - "Precinct Book of Records, Began in y<sup>e</sup> Year AD 1764 in October." 1764-1805.

PR III - "Book of Records for the first precinct in Pembroke." Precinct/parish records, 1806-1887.

PR IV - "First Parish in Pembroke. June 25, 1887." 1887-1912.

Miscellaneous records: Precinct/Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1811-1887.

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1. Also mentioned in the Parish Records for 1746ff. as a Hanover deacon. See HANOVER, First, footnote 1.



See also Morrill Allen, Public Services in Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of Rev. Morrill Allen of the First Church and Society Pembroke, December 9th, 1851 (n.p., 1851); Morrill Allen, A Discourse Delivered before the Unitarian Church and Society in Pembroke, Sunday, June 15, 1862 (Plymouth, 1862); Henry Litchfield, The First Parish in Pembroke, 1708-1908 (Pembroke, 1908); The Town of Pembroke, 21 March 1712-1912 - The First or East Parish, 1712 - The Second or West Parish, 1746, Since 1820, the Town of Hanson (Pembroke, 1912).

PEMBROKE, East Parish (see Pembroke, First).

PEMBROKE, Second Church and Precinct (see Hanson).

PEMBROKE, West Parish (see Hanson).

PEPPERELL, Community Church (U/C).

The church was gathered on Jan. 29, 1746/47; with the incorporation of the parish in 1831, it became known as the Church of the First Parish. At the same time, the orthodox withdrew, and formed their own church and society.

In 1912, the Unitarian and Congregational bodies entered into a federation with a local Methodist church. However, the Methodists did not participate in the organic fusion of the two older churches, which took place in 1919, and from which the present Community Church derives.

Ministers: Joseph Emerson (ord. 1746/47; d. 1775)  
John Bullard (ord. 1779; d. 1821)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Jeremiah Lawrence	(e. 1748; d. 1759)
	John Spofford	(e. 1748; d. 1754)
	Peleg Lawrence	(e. 1754; d. 1757)
	Josiah Fisk	(e. 1754)
	Thomas Laughton	(e. 1759)
	David Blood	(e. 1762; m. 1780)
	Daniel Fisk	(e. 1773; m. 1798)
	Edmund Parker	(e. 1773; d. 1813)
	Nathaniel Hutchinson	(e. 1789; m. 1802)
	Nathaniel Lakin	(e. 1789; m. 1802)
	Jonas Parker	(e. 1805)
	Edmund Jewett	(e. 1805)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Copy of Records of the Church of Christ in Pepperell. Vol. 1st." Copy of church records, 1747-1822.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "Records of the Church of Christ in Pepperell, Ms. Vol. II. Oct. 1822." 1822-1839.

CR III - "Records of the Church of Christ in Pepperell, Ms. Vol. III. Jan. 1840." 1840-1861.

CR IV - "Records of the Church of Christ in Pepperell, Mass. Vol. IV." 1862-1871.

CR V - MISSING, Church Records, 1871-1917.<sup>1</sup>

Miscellaneous records: the Community Church also holds most of the records of the Evangelical Congregational

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1. The original CR I and CR V were lost in the fire that destroyed the First Parish Church building in 1917. Fortunately, a copy of CR I had been made prior to the fire, and was stored elsewhere, along with CR II, CR III and CR IV.



Church, 1831-1938 (lacuna, 1860-1883); and the records of the three-church federation of 1912-1918.

See also David Andrews, The Sure and Only Foundation, with Historical Notices. A Centennial Discourse, Delivered before the Church of Christ and Second Parish, in Pepperell, Mass., January 29, 1847 (Boston, 1847); Charles Babbidge, The Claims of Congregational Churches. A Centennial Address: Being a Plea in Vindication of the Rights of the First Church of Christ in Pepperell, Mass. Delivered Feb. 9, 1847 (Boston, 1847).

PEQUOIAG (Perqueage), First Church (see Athol).

PERU (C).

The church was gathered in June of 1770 as the Church in Partridgefield. In 1795 the West Parish of Partridgefield (eventually the town of Hinsdale) was set off, but not until 1803 was the East Parish organized to support the 1770 church.

In 1806 the East Parish became the town of Peru, and the names of parish and church were duly changed to the First in Peru.

Ministers:	Stephen Tracy	(ord. 1772; dism. 1776; d. 1822)
	John Leland	(ord. 1783; dism. 1815; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Stephen Fisk	
	Daniel Kinney	
	Ebenezer Pierce	(e. 1783; d. 1803)
	Joseph Clark <sup>1</sup>	(m. 1784-1797)
	Joseph Nash ? <sup>1</sup>	

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1. Nash is not mentioned in the church records, but is mentioned as a deacon in all the secondary sources.

Zachariah Watkins	(e. 1797)
Rufus Butts	(e. 1803)
Allen Paine	(e. 1803)

The originals of CR I and CR II have dropped from sight since 1902.

CR I & CR II COPY COOKE - Rollin H. Cooke, "Partridgefield (Peru) Cong. Church." Copy made in 1901-1902 of church records, 1783-1810 (CR I) and 1811-1901 (CR II). Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR I & CR II COPY HOSMER - James Hosmer, copy of Church Records, 1783-1901. Owned and held by the Hinsdale Public Library, Hinsdale.

See also History of The County of Berkshire, Massachusetts; in Two Parts (Pittsfield, 1829); Articles of Faith, and Form of Covenant, Adopted by the Church in Peru, Together with the Catalogue of Members, from 1770 to 1868 (Pittsfield, 1868); E. L. Clark (ed.), The Building and Dedication of the Third Meeting House, of The Congregational Church, Peru, Mass. (Pittsfield, 1897).

PETERSHAM, First Congregational Parish (U).

The church was gathered in December of 1738, the same year in which the parish was organized.

Ministers:	Aaron Whitney	(ord. 1738; disp. 1774 for Tory sympathies but continued preaching at his house until 1777; d. 1779)
	Solomon Reed	(ord. 1780; disp. 1800; d. 1808)
	Festus Foster	(ord. 1802; disp. 1817; d. 1846)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Isaac Ward	(e. 1738; disp. 1758)
	Thomas Adams	(e. 1738; d. <u>ca.</u> 1750)
	David Sanderson	(e. 1750; d. <u>ca.</u> 1800)



Daniel Spooner	(e. 1750)
William Willard	(e. 1771)
Asa Howe	(e. 1791)
Seth Hapgood	(e. 1791)
Amos Stone	(e. 1800)
Josiah Willard	(e. 1800)
Joel Godard	(e. 1802)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited in the Historical Building, Petersham.

CR I - Church Records, 1733-1856.

CR I COPY - "Church Records Petersham, Massachusetts, 1733-1856." Copy made in 1904 by Mabel A. Coolidge.

See D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Worcester County, Massachusetts with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1889); The First Church in Petersham The First Congregational Parish (Unitarian) Founded 1738 Centenary of the Installation of the Reverend Luther Willson June twenty-third, 1919 (n.p., 1919).

#### PHILLIPSTON (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 16, 1785 in the newly-organized West Parish of Templeton, and was briefly known as the Second Church in Templeton. In 1786, the area was made the town of Gerry, and church and parish bore that name until 1814, when the residents were successful in petitioning the legislature to change the town's name to Phillipston.<sup>1</sup> The parish was discontinued in 1902.

Ministers:	Ebenezer Tucker	(ord. 1788; disp. 1799; d. 1848)
	Ezekiel L. Bascom	(ord. 1800; disp. 1820; d. 1841)

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1. The honor paid Elbridge Gerry, the creator of "gerry-mandering," was thus rescinded by the townsfolk who found his Republican politics distasteful.

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Deacon Charles Baker (e. Templeton 1763; e. Phillipston 1788; d. 1813)  
 Thaddeus Brown (e. 1788; d. 1802)  
 Peirson Richardson (e. 1803; res. 1826)  
 Joseph Knowlton (e. 1803; res. 1831)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1785-1822.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1822-1862.

CR III - "Church Records." 1862-1941.

PR I - "Record's of the First Parish, Phillipston." 1830-1880.

PR II - Parish Records, 1881-1902.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors Rate Book, 1830-1876.

See also Articles of Faith and Covenant of the Congregational Church, in Phillipston, Mass., with Historical Sketch. (Athol Depot, Mass., 1871); S. B. Andrews, Historical Address, with a Short Account of the Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Organization of The Congregational Church of Phillipston, Mass. (Athol, 1886); William G. Lord, Historical Address Delivered by William G. Lord at the Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Phillipston, Massachusetts, Tuesday, August 18th, 1936 (Athol, 1936).

PITTSFIELD, First (C).

The church was gathered on Feb. 7, 1764, taking the name "First Church" in 1810, and "United Congregational Church" in 1817. Since that time, the usage "First Church" has been resumed. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund received incorporation in 1822, and the First Parish was organized in 1795.



Minister: Thomas Allen (ord. 1764; d. 1810)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Deacon Stephen Crowfoot<sup>1</sup> (d. 1772)  
 James Easton (e. 1765; m. 1769)  
 Josiah Wright (e. 1765; m. 1784)  
 Matthew Barber (e. 1784; m. 1794)  
 Joseph Clarke (e. 1784)  
 James Hubbard (e. 1795; d. 1813)  
 James Brattle (e. 1795)  
 Daniel Chapman (e. 1803; withdrew to  
 join Union Congrega-  
 tional Church of Pitts-  
 field 1810)<sup>2</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Record Book and Register, Feb. 7, 1764 to Nov. 1817."

CR II - "Church Record Book and Register (to Apr. 1824), Nov. 25, 1817 to Apr. 1864. Lacuna, 1864-1872.

VS I - "Church Register, Apr. 15, 1824 to Feb. 16, 1842." Vital statistics only.

CR I, CR II, VS I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Pittsfield, Mass. Church and Other Records from Manuscripts Copied

1. Formerly a deacon at Belchertown, Mass., according to Proceedings in Commemoration of the Organization in Pittsfield, February 7, 1764, of the First Church of Christ. February 7, 1889 (Pittsfield, 1889); however, the critical volumes of Belchertown records are missing, and the extant records make no mention of Crowfoot.

2. The Union Congregational Church was organized by seceders from the First Church in 1808-1809; it reunited with the First Church in 1817, briefly taking the name "United Congregational Church." See William Allen, An Account of the Separation in the Church and Town of Pittsfield, with Remarks on Some Ecclesiastical Proceedings, which Seem to have Violated the Principles of the Congregational and Independent Churches of New-England (Pittsfield, 1809).

by Rollin Hillyer Cooke." Copy made ca. 1900, two volumes. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenæum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

VS II - "Church Register, Feb. 16, 1842 to Mch. 1873." Vital statistics only.

CR III - "Record Book, First Church of Christ in Pittsfield, Mass. Number 4." 1872-1927.<sup>1</sup>

VS III - "Church Register, March 1873 to Nov. 1881." Vital statistics only.

VS IV - "Church Register. Records of the First Cong'l Church. Pittsfield, Mass. April 1, 1881 to Jan. 1, 1899." Vital statistics only.

VS V - "Church Register." Vital statistics only, 1890-1940.

VS VI - "1899-1940. 7." Vital statistics only.

PR I - MISSING, Parish Records, 1764-1868.<sup>2</sup>

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1868-1900.

#### PLAINFIELD (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 31, 1786, and the First Parish and Religious Society organized in 1838.

Minister: Moses Hallock (ord. 1792; d. 1837)

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1. The church officers in numbering the record books have assigned Arabic numerals as follows: CR I = 1, CR II = 2, VS I = 3, CR III = 4, etc.

2. The first volume of parish records was destroyed by fire in 1868. See Thomas Colt, MS, "History of the First Congregational Parish - From Its Organization in 1764 to March, 1868 when Original Records Were Destroyed by Fire," owned and held by the church.



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Lt. John Packard (e. 1792; d. 1807)  
 Capt. James Richards (e. 1792; d. 1842)  
 Joseph Beals (e. 1803; d. 1813)

The records are held by the Town Clerk.

CR I - "Earliest Church Records. Vol. I." 1786-1830,  
 with vital statistics to 1836.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church, Plainfield,  
 Mass." 1830-1841.<sup>1</sup>

See also Jacob Porter, Topographical Description and Historical Sketch of Plainfield, in Hampshire County, Massachusetts, May, 1834 (Greenfield, Mass., 1834), and The Confession of Faith, Covenant, and List of Members, of the Congregational Church in Plainfield, Mass. (Northampton, 1884).

PLANTATION NO. 4, Church (see Becket).

PLANTATION NO. 7, Church (see Hawley, First, Charlemont).

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1. No records post-dating 1841 have thus far been found.



## PLYMOUTH, First Parish (U).

The probable date of this church's covenanting is early in 1606/07, the place being Scrooby, England. Its members' migration, first to Amsterdam, thence to Leyden, and the subsequent voyage of the Pilgrim contingent to the New World requires to rehearsal here.

As far as can be determined, no new act of covenanting was undertaken after the Pilgrims' arrival at New Plymouth. Instead, it was agreed that the Leyden and Plymouth congregations would each constitute a complete church, independent of one another. Therefore, the American history of the Pilgrim church can be said to have begun on Dec. 16, 1620 (O.S.), the day on which the Mayflower's passengers disembarked at Plymouth.<sup>1</sup>

The several divisions of the town into precincts and the gathering of later churches explains the various names given to the parent church and its associated precinct/parish.<sup>2</sup> In 1717, a North Precinct was set off, and a church gathered there in 1720; in 1726, the area became the town of Kingston. Meanwhile, the area containing the parent church took the title "South Precinct," and in 1723 held its first precinct meeting. When Kingston became a separate town, however, the "South Precinct" changed its own designation to "North Precinct."

A second church was gathered at Manomet in 1738, but its associated precinct (called "the Second" or "Manomet Ponds") was not fully incorporated until 1810.

In 1744, Old Light dissidents seceded from the parent

1. Once the New England experiment got under way, a third factor came to take its place beside matter and form as elements requisite for the constituting of a particular church. While not so stated explicitly, location was considered so important that the church at Scituate-Barnstable (see BARNSTABLE, West) took its relocation in the New World to be a beginning de novo, even though its members here were some of the same folk who had joined in church estate at Southwark, England, in 1616. Similarly, the church begun at Chelmsford in 1655 was there constituted de novo, even though most of its members were the covenanted members of a church gathered a few years earlier at Wenham.

2. While not critical in the sequence of events described here, it should be noted that in 1695 a West Precinct (later Plympton) was set off, and a church gathered there some three years later.



church, gathered a Third Church and apparently organized a Third Precinct. This Separate church rejoined the parent body in 1783, and the year following, the two precincts were united as the First Precinct.

A more amicable separation took place in 1801, the new church taking the abandoned title of "Third Church," and its prudential body (organized the following year) becoming known as the "Third Society."<sup>1</sup>

The church of 1620 continues today, the oldest of the Pilgrim-Puritan churches on this continent. The Trustees of its Fuller Ministerial Fund received incorporation in 1835.

Ministers: William Brewster <sup>2</sup>	(e. ruling elder at Leyden ca. 1610; ruling elder at Plymouth 1620-d. 1643; acting minister at Plymouth 1620-1629, at Duxbury 1632-1637) (ord. 1629; res. 1634-1637; d. 1660/61)
Ralph Smith <sup>3</sup>	(ord. 1629; res. 1634-1637; d. 1660/61)
John Rayner <sup>4</sup>	(inst. 1636; res. and rem. 1654; d. 1669)
John Cotton, Jr.	(ord. 1669; dism. 1697; d. 1699)
Ephraim Little	(ord. 1699; d. 1723)

1. In 1852, the names were changed to "The Church and Society of the Pilgrimage."

2. The infamous John Lyford preached at Plymouth in 1624-1625, but was banished as "an enemy of the plantation." In 1628, a young man named Rogers appeared as a candidate, but was shipped back to England, being judged "Crased in his braine."

3. During the years 1631-1634, Smith was assisted by Rev. Roger Williams, who next served at Salem. John Norton served as assistant in 1635-1636, before settling at Ipswich. Neither assistant appears to have been settled at Plymouth.

4. The church attempted to secure as teacher to Rayner's pastor, Rev. Charles Chauncy, who preached at Plymouth 1638-1640, and then settled at Scituate. Apparently, Chauncy was never settled at Plymouth. During the years 1654-1669, the church relied on the ministrations of ruling elder Thomas Cushman and the supply preaching of James Williams and William Brinsmead.



Nathaniel Leonard	(ord. 1724; res. 1757; dism. 1760; d. 1761)
Chandler Robbins, D.D.	(ord. 1760; d. 1799)
James Kendall, D.D.	(ord. 1800; d. 1859)

Ruling elders:	William Brewster <sup>1</sup>	(e. at Leyden <u>ca.</u> 1610; d. 1643)
	Thomas Cushman <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1649; d. 1691)
	Deacon Thomas Faunce	(nom. 1694; proba- tioner; refused 1695; re-e. and ord. 1699; d. 1745/46)
	Isaac Cushman	(nom. 1694; proba- tioner until rem. to Plympton ministry 1695; d. 1732)

Deacons:	John Carver	(e. at Leyden <u>ca.</u> 1610; d. 1621)
	Samuel Fuller	(e. at Leyden <u>ca.</u> 1610; d. 1633)
	Richard Masterson	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1629; d. 1633)
	Thomas Blossom	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1629; d. 1633)
	John Doane	(e. 1633; d. 1686 ?)
	William Paddy	(e. 1634-1636; d. 1658)
	John Cook	(e. post-1636; excom. <u>ca.</u> 1654-1676; d. 1695)
	John Dunham	(e. post-1636; d. 1669)
	Robert Phinney	(e. and ord. 1669; d. 1687/88)
	Lt. Ephraim Morton	(e. and ord. 1669; d. 1693)
	Thomas Faunce	(e. 1686; elev. to ruling elder 1699; d. 1745/46)
	George Morton	(e. and ord. 1694; d. 1727)

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1. See Ashbel Steele, Chief of the Pilgrims: or The Life and Time of William Brewster (Philadelphia, 1857); Henry M. Dexter, "The True Date of the Birth and Death of Elder Brewster," NEHGR, XVIII (1864), 18-20; Lyman D. Brewster, "William Brewster, His True Position in Our Colonial History," MD, IV (1902), 100-109. See also Increase N. Tarbox, "Ruling Elders in the Early New-England Churches," CQ, XIV - New Ser. IV (1872), 401-416.

2. See George E. Bowman, "Elder Thomas Cushman's Will and Inventory, and the Records of His Death," MD, IV (1902), 37-42.



Nathaniel Atwood <sup>1</sup>	(e. and ord. 1694; m. 1724)
Thomas Clark	(e. and ord. 1694; d. 1727)
John Foster <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1716; d. 1741)
John Atwood <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1716; d. 1754)
Haviland Torrey	(e. and ord. 1728; d. 1750)
Thomas Clark	(e. 1728; d. 1728)
Thomas Foster	(e. 1745; d. 1777)
Joseph Bartlett	(e. 1745; d. 1783)
John Torrey	(e. 1754; d. 1776)
William Crombie	(e. 1777; d. 1814)
Jonathan Diman	(e. 1784; d. 1797)
Ephraim Spooner	(e. 1784; d. 1818)
John Bishop	(e. 1797; res. and dism. to Plymouth Third 1801; d. 1830)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited at Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth.

CR I - "Plymouth First Church Records. First Book The Lord our God be with us as he was with our Fathers." 1620-1732.

CR II - Church Records, 1732-1799.

CR III - "Plymouth<sup>3</sup> Church Records Vol: III. Began Jany 1799." 1799-1859.<sup>3</sup>

CR PUB BOWMAN - George E. Bowman, "Plymouth First Church Records," MD, IV (1902), 212-217, V (1903), 214-217, VIII (1906), 214-217, XII (1910), 26-28, XIII (1911), 72-75, 152-158, XIV (1912), 101-106, 188-192, XV (1913), 21-23, 223-227, XVI (1914), 53-57, project aborted. The parts published by Bowman cover 1667-1699.

CR PUB I & CR PUB II - "Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859," CSMP, XXII & XXIII (1920 & 1923). Published in cooperation

1. Sometimes given as "Wood."

2. See "Deacon John Foster's Will," MD, XXIV (1922), 24-26.

3. In preparation for the published version of CR I, CR II and CR III, photostats were made of all three volumes. One such copy is held by Pilgrim Hall, another by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, and a third by the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Boston.



with the New England Society of New York, which<sup>1</sup> issued the same two volumes at New York in the same years.

PR I - "Precinct Book 1719-1813." (Flyleaf: "The South Precinct Book This Book Belongeth To The South Precinct in The Township of Plimouth. January y<sup>e</sup> 26 Ann<sup>o</sup>, 1722. Now the North Precinct Book 1734. But now the first Precinct Book. 1743/4/") 1723-1813.

PR II - "Plymouth First Precinct 2nd Book." Precinct/parish records, 1814-1891.

PR III - "Plymouth First Precinct Third Book." Parish records, 1891-1929.

Miscellaneous records: Notebook of ruling elder Thomas Faunce; Precinct/Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1797-1853; Precinct/Parish Committee Records, 1813-1857; Accounts of Fuller Ministerial Fund, 1853-1877, 1879-1915.

#### PLYMOUTH, Manomet (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 8, 1738 as the Second Church of Plymouth, in the area known as Monument or Manomet Ponds. The precinct was not fully incorporated until 1810; it eventually became the parish, and was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1930.

Ministers:	Jonathan Ellis	(ord. 1738; disp. 1749; d. 1785)
	Elijah Packard	(ord. 1753; disp. 1757; d. 1766)
	Ivory Hovey	(inst. 1770; d. 1803)
	Seth Stetson	(ord. 1804; disp. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

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1. So complete is this published version of the records, that the present writer chose to use it (rather than the original books) throughout this thesis. Pp. 3-282 of the published version comprises CR I, pp. 285-529 publishes CR II, and pp. 533-719 reproduces CR III.



Deacons: John Blackmer ?  
 Elisha Holmes (e. 1739; cta. 1770)  
 Thomas Harlow (e. 1740; d. 1746/47)  
 Robert Harlow (e. 1749; d. 1770)  
 John Torrey (m. 1766)  
 Nathaniel Warren (m. 1766; d. 1767)  
 Branch Blackmer (e. 1787; m. 1799)  
 Abner Bartlett (m. 1799)

There are no extant church records antedating 1841. The extant records are owned by the church, and deposited at Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1738-1841.

CR II - "General History and Business Transactions of the Second Church in Plymouth." 1841-1930.

PR I COPY - Copy of Monument Ponds Precinct Records, made in 1841 by Nathaniel Clark. 1732-1795.

PR II - Precinct/Parish Records, 1796-1868.

PR III - MISSING, Parish Records, 1868-1902.

See also The Articles of Faith and Covenant of the Second Church in Plymouth (Boston, 1842); Haig Adadourian, Proceedings of the One Hundred and Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration of the Second Congregational Church in Plymouth, (Manomet) Mass. Held on Nov. 9, 1898 (Plymouth, 1899); Katherine Freeland, Second Church in Plymouth, Congregational in Manomet (Plymouth, 1957).

PLYMOUTH, Third (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Nov. 7, 1744 by Old Light secessionists from Plymouth's First Church. A precinct was apparently organized to sustain the Third Church. In 1783, this Separate church rejoined the parent body, and the next year, the First and Third Precincts were united as the First Precinct.



Ministers: Thomas Frink (inst. 1744; rem. 1748; d. 1777)  
 Jacob Bacon (inst. 1749; rem. 1776; d. 1787)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Josiah Carver (e. 1745; m. 1748)  
 Samuel Nelson (e. 1745; m. 1748)  
 ----- Diman (m. 1777)<sup>1</sup>

Very few records of this extinct church are known to have survived.

VS - Church and Precinct Vital Statistics, 1744-1783. Includes polls, confession of faith, marriages, baptisms, admissions, proposal to reunite, precinct meeting records, marriage intentions. Owned and held by Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth.

CR - Folded page, commencing: "At a meeting of the Third Chh in Plymouth at their Meeting House on January the 7th 1745." Church records 1745, 1747-1748. Owned and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston; comprises part of the Nathan Stone Papers, Box. No. 1.

See also C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 113, 205, 316.

#### PLYMOUTH, Pilgrimage (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 1, 1801 as the Third Church in Plymouth, and the Third Congregational Society received incorporation in 1802. In 1852, the society's name was changed to the Society of the Pilgrimage, and the church adopted the title, the Church of the Pilgrimage, in 1870.

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1. PLYMOUTH, First, CR PUB, 356, makes mention under date of July 10, 1777, of one "Deacon Diman of the 3d Church, who constantly meets with us," and records that Diman was asked by the First Church to exercise his diaconal powers in their midst as occasion might demand. It is conceivable that Deacon Diman was the same Jonathan Diman who was elected a deacon by the First Church in 1784.



The society was dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1890.

Minister: Adoniram Judson (sett. 1802; dism. 1817;  
d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Deacon John Bishop (e. Plymouth First 1797;  
e. here 1801; d. 1830)  
Solomon Churchill (e. 1802; res. and dism. to  
Plymouth Fourth 1829)  
Lot Harlow (e. 1802; res. 1829)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited at a local bank.

CR I - Church Records, 1801-1823.

CR II - Church Records, 1824-1852 (vital statistics back to 1801).

CR III - Church Records, 1852-1883.

CR IV - Church Records, 1883-1890.

SR I - Society Records, 1802-1829.

SR II - Society Records, 1830-1840.

SR III - Society Records and Register, 1840-1868.

SR IV - Society Records, 1881-1890.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1803-1830, 1830-1876; Society Standing Committee Records, 1874-1889, 1890-1906; Pew Accounts, 1868-1879.

PLYMOUTH, Jones River Precinct or Parish (see Kingston).

PLYMOUTH, Monument Ponds Precinct (see Plymouth, Manomet).

PLYMOUTH, North Precinct (see Kingston).

PLYMOUTH, Second Precinct and Church (see Plymouth, Manomet).

PLYMOUTH, Third Church and Society (see Plymouth, Pilgrimage).

PLYMOUTH, West Precinct and Church (see Plympton).

PLYMPTON (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 27, 1698 in the West Precinct of Plymouth (incorporated in 1695). The precinct became the town of Plympton in 1707, and church and parish names were accordingly changed. The parish was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1891.

Ministers:	Isaac Cushman	(Plymouth deacon; ord. pastor here 1698; d. 1732)
	Jonathan Parker	(ord. 1731; d. 1776)
	Ezra Sampson	(ord. 1775; res. and dism. 1796; d. 1823)



Ebenezer Withington	(ord. 1798; dism. 1801; d. 1831)
John Briggs	(inst. 1801; dism. 1807; d. 1811)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the lack of early church records, very little is known of the lay officers of this church. Secondary sources supply the names of the following deacons:

----- Downham	(first Plympton deacon) <sup>1</sup>
John Waterman	(d. 1718) <sup>2</sup>
Nathaniel Wood	(d. 1724) <sup>3</sup>
Elkanah Cushman	(d. 1727) <sup>4</sup>

The church records antedating 1793 were last reported in 1809.<sup>5</sup> The extant records are owned by the church, and deposited with the Town Clerk.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1698-1793.

CR II - "The Second Volume of the Records of the Church in Plympton, County of Plymouth, State of Massachusetts." 1793-1826.

CR III - "The Third Volume of Church Records in the Town of Plympton Plymouth County Massachusetts." 1826-1849.

CR IV - "Church Records Book IV." (Flyleaf: "The Fourth

1. See "History and Description of Plympton, 1815," MHSC, 2nd Ser., IV (1816, rep. 1846), 267-271.

2. Susan A. Smith, "Early Records of Plympton, Mass.," MD, II (1900), 141.

3. Op. cit., II (1900), 234.

4. Op. cit., I (1899), 178. See also George E. Bowman, "Deacon Elkanah Cushman's Will and the Bond of His Sons Josiah and Allerton," op. cit., V (1903), 20-22.

5. CR II, p. 36.

Book of the Records of the Congregational Church in Plympton, Mass.") 1851-1880.

CR V - "Volume 5. The Confession of Faith and Covenant of the First Congregational Church Plympton, Mass. Adopted by the Church in 1878." 1878-1894.

Parish records: the flyleaf of PR III states that Volumes I, II, III and VI of the Town Records contain parish votes; it further remarks the existence of two volumes of Parish Records, which could not be located.

PR I & PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, to 1827.

PR III - "The Third Book of the Records of the First Parish or Precinct in Plympton in the County of Plymouth in the State of Massachusetts." 1827-1863.

Miscellaneous records: Pew Deeds, 1830 and 1842-1887.

See also "The Plympton Bi-Centennial," The Congregationalist, LXXXIII (1898), 622; 250 Years of Building Christ's Kingdom 1698-1948 Being an account of Two Hundred and Fifty Years witness to our Lord by The First Congregational Church, Plympton, Massachusetts (n.p., 1948).

PLYMPTON, South Church and Parish (see Carver).

POCASSET Parish (see Bourne).

POCASSET (Pokesit) Praying Town and Church (see Bourne, Pocasset or Pokesit Praying Town and Church).



POTANUMAQUUT Indian Congregational Church (see Orleans, Potanumaquut Indian Congregational Church).

[PRESCOTT (C), extinct.]

The Second (East) Parish in Pelham was incorporated in 1786. By 1792, a church had been gathered there under Presbyterian auspices. Membership steadily declined, however, and after 1809 the church was unable to support a settled minister. In 1823, it was voted to adopt Congregational polity. The parish was reorganized at this time, and took the name, "First Congregational Society."

The society was dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1914. When plans for the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir (involving the destruction of Prescott and neighboring towns) became known, the church noted itself out of existence (June 24, 1928), and its building was moved to South Hadley to house the Skinner Museum.

Minister: Matthias Cazier<sup>1</sup> (inst. 1794; dism. 1798; d. 1837)

Ruling elders and deacons: in the absence of early church records, the only lay officers whose names have survived are deacons Patrick McMillen and Daniel Grey.

There are no church records for the Presbyterian phase of the church's history. The extant records are owned and held by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - Church Records, 1823-1854, with vital statistics to 1858. Includes some inserted parish documents, 1786-1798.

CR II - "First Congl. Church, Prescott, Mass. 1858." 1858-1919.

CR III - "Prescott, Mass. First Congregational Church. Records of the First Congregational Church of Prescott,

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1. Sometimes given as "Cozier."



Mass. Incorporated 1914." 1914-1928. Owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston.

PR I - "Pelham-Prescott Church Records." Parish records, 1786-1848.

See also E. O. Parmenter, History of Pelham, Mass. from 1738 to 1898 including the Early History of Prescott (Amherst, 1898); Evelina Gustafson, Ghost Towns 'neath the Quabbin Reservoir (Boston-Norwood, 1940); Donald W. Howe et alii, Quabbin: The Lost Valley (Ware, Mass., 1951).

#### PRINCETON (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 12, 1764. In 1816, disagreement over the choice of a new minister led to a twenty-year separation. When the church three times rejected the liberal candidate proposed by the town, the town (on the advice of an ecclesiastical council) settled him and with a remnant of the church proceeded to his ordination.

The disaffected majority of the church seceded, and formed a church under the auspices of the Newburyport Presbytery. In 1830, finding the expenses of Presbyterianism too burdensome, this church voted to adopt Congregational polity, and adopted the title of Evangelical Congregational Church. By 1836 there were no further barriers to the unification of the Unitarian and Congregational contingents, and a merger was effected under the names, Union Congregational Church and First Parish.

Ministers:	Timothy Fuller	(ord. 1767; disp. 1776; d. 1805)
	Thomas Crafts	(ord. 1786; disp. 1791; d. 1819)
	Joseph Russell	(ord. 1796; disp. 1801; d. 1861)
	James Murdock	(ord. 1802; disp. 1815; d. 1856)

Ruling elders: none.

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 267, lists the church and parish as extinct Unitarian bodies.



Deacons:	Timothy Keyes	(e. 1767; ord. 1768; rem. n.d.; d. 1810)
	Adonijah Howe	(e. 1767; ord. 1768; res. in protest against minister's Tory- ism; reassumed office 1776; d. 1800)
	Elisha Hobbs	(e. 1787; d. 1807)
	Ebenezer Parker	(e. 1800; d. 1839)

The records are owned by the church and deposited with the local library.

CR I - "Princeton, Mass. Church Records, 1765-1766. Miscellaneous Records, 1767-1776."

CR II - "Records of the Church in Princeton." 1767-1836 (lacuna in running records, 1776-1786).

VS I - Baptisms (1767-1815) and Marriages (1803-1815).

CR II DUP - "Records of the Congregational Church, Princeton." 1817-1835.

CR III - "Church Business Meetings," 1836-1886.

CR IV - "Church Business Meetings, 1887-1897."

P/SR I - Society/Parish Records, 1833-1851.

P/SR II - "Records of the First Parish, 1851." 1851-1899.

Miscellaneous records: Town and Ministerial Rate Books, 1799-1805, 1805-1816, 1817-1825; Parish/Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1893-1897, 1889-1901; Pew Records, 1796-1799, 1838-1840, 1866-1920.

PROVINCETOWN (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1714,<sup>1</sup> but became virtually extinct during the 1740's, due to a sudden decrease in the population of the town. It was reorganized in 1769, and then was again forced to close its doors in 1830. Revived in 1841, it maintained a somewhat uncertain existence until extinguished a third time in 1950.

Ministers: Samuel Spear (sett. 1717; rem. 1741; d. 1748)  
 Samuel Parker (ord. 1774; d. 1811)

Ruling elders and deacons: lacking any records, it is impossible to say who might have been the church's lay officers.

It was reported in 1889 that the earliest extant records dated from 1769;<sup>2</sup> however, these documents were destroyed by fire prior to 1914.

See also "A Description of Provincetown, in the County of Barnstable. September, 1802," MHSC, 1st Ser., VIII (1802, rep. 1846), 196-202; Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod (Boston, 1860 and 1862), two volumes; Herman A. Jennings, Provincetown or, Odds and Ends from the Tip End (Yarmouthport, Mass., 1890). See also contents of the metal box marked "Church of the Pilgrims Provincetown, Mass. The 200th Anniversary Papers - June 28th, 1914," owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston.

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1. Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 352, erroneously supposes the church to have been gathered before 1714.

2. See Carroll D. Wright, Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties (Boston, 1889), p. 11.



QUABAUG, Church (see Brookfield).

QUABBIN Parish (see Greenwich).

QUEENSBOROUGH (see West Stockbridge).

QUINCY, United First Parish (U).

In 1640 the town of Braintree was incorporated, encompassing present-day Braintree, Quincy, Randolph and Holbrook. The Quincy area ("Mount Wollaston") was selected as the site of the original church, gathered on Sept. 16, 1639.

In 1708 Old Braintree was divided into duly incorporated precincts, the North (Quincy) and the South (Braintree), and the ancient church remained located in the North Precinct. When Quincy was set off as a town in 1792, the name of the 1639 church and parish was duly changed to the First Parish Church in Quincy.

In 1959, the First Parish Church merged with the Wollaston Unitarian Society to form the United First Parish Church.

Ministers:	John Wheelwright	(ord. in England 1619; sett. here 1636; banished 1637; banishment rescinded 1644; d. 1679)
	William Tompson	(ord. pastor 1639; cta. 1659; d. 1666)
	Henry Flynt	(ord. teacher 1639/40; d. 1668)
	Peter Bulkley	(sett. 1669-1670; s. 1688)
	Moses Fiske	(ord. 1672; d. 1708)

Joseph Marsh	(ord. 1709; d. 1725/26)
John Hancock, Jr.	(ord. 1726; d. 1744)
Lemuel Briant	(ord. 1745; dism. 1753; d. 1754)
Anthony Wibird	(ord. 1755; d. 1800)
Peter Whitney	(ord. 1800; d. 1843)
Ruling elders: Stephen Kinsley	(e. and ord. 1653) <sup>1</sup>
Nathaniel Wales	(e. and ord. 1700/01)
Deacons: <sup>2</sup> Samuel Bass	(m. 1668-1677)
Alexander Winchester	(adm. to membership ca. 1640)
Richard Brackett	(adm. to membership ca. 1642)
Francis Eliot	(e. 1653; d. 1677)
William Alice	(e. 1653)
Robert Parmiter <sup>3</sup>	(e. 1677; ord. 1679)
Samuel Tompson	(e. and ord. 1679; d. 1695)
Thomas Bass	
Joseph Penniman	
Nathaniel Wales	
Benjamin Savil	(m. 1711-1716)
Moses Paine	(m. 1711; d. 1746)
Gregory Belcher	(m. 1722; d. 1727)
Capt. Peter Adams	(e. 1727; d. ca. 1747)
Samuel Savil	(e. 1727; m. 1756)
Jonathan Webb	(e. 1747)
John Adams	(e. 1747; d. 1761)

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1. A ruling elder John Penniman is mentioned in CR I, under date of 1683, but it seems doubtful that he was an officer of the Quincy church.

2. In the absence of records antedating the church's early years and in the face of the thinness of the extant records, this list has been compiled from such records as do exist and from Daniel M. Wilson (ed.), The "Chappel of Ease" and Church of Statesmen. Commemorative Services at the Completion of Two Hundred and Fifty Years Since the Gathering of the First Church of Christ in Quincy (Cambridge, 1890).

3. Sometimes given as "Parmenter."



Deacon Joseph Palmer <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1752; res. 1773)
Lt. Moses Belcher	(e. 1752; res. 1771)
Joseph Neal, Jr.	(e. 1769; m. 1774)
Daniel Arnold	(e. 1769)
Benjamin Bass	(e. 1771; d. 1808)
Ebenezer Adams	(e. 1773)
Jonathan Webb <sup>2</sup>	
Josiah Adams	(m. 1802)
Jonathan Bass	(m. 1803; res. 1811)
Elijah Veazie	(m. 1803; res. 1817)

There are no church records antedating 1671;<sup>3</sup> the extant records are owned by the church and some of them deposited at a local bank.

CR I - "Braintree Church Records 1753 The Church Records of Braintree." 1671-1773, and vital statistics: baptisms, 1672-1774; admissions, 1672-1774; owners of covenant, 1664/1680-1743; marriages, 1688-1774; dismissals, 1672-1735; deaths, 1745-1752. Running records uneven.<sup>4</sup>

CR I PUB - Edward E. Jackson, "Records of the First Church at Braintree, Mass.," NEHGR, LIX (1905), 87-91, 153-159, 269-275, 360-365. Admissions, owners of the covenant, marriages, and baptisms, 1672-1708.

CR I PHOTOSTAT - Complete photostat of CR I. Made in 1956 for the National Society of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America.<sup>5</sup>

1. Formerly a deacon in Boston's Ninth (West) Church.
2. Possibly the same Jonathan Webb elected to the diaconate at Quincy in 1747.
3. The first volume of church records, covering the period 1639-1671, dropped from sight between 1739 and 1824.
4. Certain disciplinary records from this volume were extensively excerpted and published by Charles F. Adams, "Some Phases of Sexual Morality and Church Discipline in Colonial New England," MHSP, 2nd Ser., VI (1890-1891), 477-516. For a more popular treatment of church life at Quincy, see idem, Three Episodes of Massachusetts History (Boston and New York, 1892), II, pp. 581-1009, esp. 747-763.
5. The New England Historic Genealogical Society holds a set of these photostat copies of CR I and CR II.



CR II - "Braintree Church Records 1775. (V. II.)" Vital statistics: baptisms, 1775-1856; admissions, 1775-1856; marriages, 1775-1850; deaths, 1800-1856; running records, 1811-1844.<sup>1</sup>

CR II PHOTOSTAT - Complete photostat of CR II. Made in 1956 for the National Society of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America.<sup>2</sup>

PR I - "The Book of Records of The North Precinct in Braintree Bought By John Marshall, Treasurer Of Said Precinct. December 22d MDCCXIII." 1709-1766.

PR II - "The Second Book of Records of The North Precinct in Braintree New England March ADomini 1767:" Precinct/parish records, 1767-1791.

See also John Hancock, A Memorial of God's Goodness. Being the Substance of Two Sermons, Preach'd in the first Church of Christ in Braintree, Sept. 16th, 1739. On compleating the first Century since the Gathering of it (Boston, 1739); William Lunt, Two Discourses, Delivered September 29, 1839, on Occasion of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Gathering of the First Congregational Church, Quincy: with an Appendix (Boston, 1840); Frederick A. Whitney, "A Church of the First Congregational (Unitarian) Society in Quincy, Mass., Built in 1732," NEHGR, XVIII (1864), 117-131; Daniel M. Wilson, op. cit.; William C. Edwards, Historic Quincy Massachusetts, 2nd ed. (Quincy, 1957).

Some scraps of information on the church's early history are contained in "John Marshall's Diary," MHSP, 2nd Ser., I (1884-1885), 148-163, especially pp. 154-155; and in "Manuscript on Rev. Josiah Flynt, of Braintree and Dorchester," DHR, X (1899), 19-25.

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1. Note the lacuna in the running records, 1773-1811.

2. The New England Historic Genealogical Society holds a set of these photostat copies of CR I and CR II.



QUITTAUB Indian Congregational Church (see Middleboro).

# RANDOLPH (C).

The church was gathered on May 28, 1731 as the Church in the Third (South) Precinct of Braintree, the precinct having been incorporated in 1728.

When the precinct became the town of Randolph in 1793, church and parish became the First in Randolph. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1832. In 1959 the parish was dissolved and the church incorporated.

Ministers:	Elisha Eaton	(ord. 1731; dism. 1750; d. 1764)
	Moses Taft	(ord. 1752; d. 1791)
	Jonathan Strong, D.D.	(ord. 1789; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Thomas Wales	(e. 1731; d. 1775)
	Samuel Bass	(e. 1733; d. 1768)
	Peter Thayer	(e. 1768; res. 1781)
	Jonathan Wild	(e. 1768; d. 1794)
	Nathaniel Wales	(e. 1782; d. 1788)
	William Linfield, 3rd	(e. 1782; res. and dism. 1818)
	Samuel Allen	(e. 1788; res. 1814)

The church records antedating 1815 have been lost for several years; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited in a local bank.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1731-1815.

CR II - "Church Clerk's Records 1815-1831."

CR III - "Church Clerk's Records 1831-1881."

CR IV - "Church Clerk's Records 1881-1924."

C REG I - "Catalogue of Church Members 1731-1850. Catalogue of Members of the First Congregational Church Randolph,



Mass. to Jan. 1, 1850." Admissions, 1731-1875, chronologically arranged with alphabetical index.

PR I - "Records 1728-1755 First Parish, Randolph. Vol. I." Precinct records.

PR II - "Parish Records First Parish, Randolph. 1756-1815. Vol. II." Precinct/parish records.

PR III - "Vol. III. Records of 1. Parish, Randolph AD. 1815 to 1859. Parish Meetings &c."

PR IV - "Records First Parish, Randolph. Vol. V. 1859 1899."

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Accounts, 1799-1807; Church Fund Accounts, 1827-1882; Parish Assessors Rate Books, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1817, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822 (two), 1823 (two), 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1827-28, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844-45, 1845-47, 1848-56, 1858-64, 1860, 1861, 1882-1903; Pew Deeds, 1839-1859, 1887-1911; Meeting House Finance Committee, 1860-1863.

See also Manual of the First Congregational Church in Randolph; with Historical Sketches, and a Catalogue of Members (Randolph, 1862); Proceedings at the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization of the First Congregational Church, Randolph, Mass. Wednesday, June 8th, 1881 (Boston, 1881), including historical address by J. C. Labaree; Harry R. Butnam, History of Randolph (Brockton, 1952); 230th Anniversary First Congregational Church of Randolph Friday, March 10, 1961 (n.p., 1961).

#### RAYNHAM, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 19, 1731. The Trustees of The Funds appropriated to the Support of Religion, Piety, and Morality in the town of Raynham were incorporated in 1798, and the First Congregational Society in 1834. In 1947 church and society were consolidated into one organization.



Although a temporary separation by New Lights disturbed the church in 1749-1751, no Separate church was organized here.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers: John Wales (ord. 1731; d. 1765)  
 Peres Fobes, D.D. (ord. 1766; d. 1812; served  
 as Vice-President and Pro-  
 fessor of Natural Philosophy  
 at Brown, 1786-1798)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Staples (e. 1731; d. 1749 ?)  
 Samuel Leonard (e. 1731; d. 1745 ?)  
 Jonathan Shaw (e. 1741; m. 1755)  
 Jonathan Hall (e. 1750; m. 1785)  
 Edmund Williams (e. 1750)<sup>2</sup>  
 Elijah Leonard (e. 1761; m. 1785)  
 Israel Washburn (d. 1799)  
 Jonathan Shaw (e. 1780; m. 1782)<sup>3</sup>  
 Abiel Williams<sup>4</sup> (e. 1797; d. 1830)  
 Oliver Washburn (e. 1797; d. 1824)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records Vol. I." 1740-1790, 1797, 1812;  
 vital statistics, 1738-1822.

VS PUB - Francis E. Blake, "Marriages and Baptisms in  
 Raynham, Mass.," NEHGR, LI (1897), 290-292, 315-316." 1782-  
 1792.

CR II - "Records of the Church of Christ in Raynham.  
 Vol. II." 1823-1840, with marriages to 1847.

1. See C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 316.

2. Probably the same Edmund Williams who was suspended from church privileges in 1751, for his adopting Baptist principles.

3. It was doubtless this Jonathan Shaw who died in 1796.

4. See "The Will of Deacon Abiel Williams," MD, XXIII (1921), 33-39.



CR III - "Records of the Church in Raynham Vol. III."  
1847-1879.

CR IV - "Records of the First Cong. Church, Raynham.  
Vol. 4." 1880-1943.

MF I - Records of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund,  
1798-1920.

SR I - Society Records, 1834-1885.

SR II - "Records of the First Congregational Society.  
Raynham, Mass. Vol. 2." 1886-1929.

Miscellaneous records: Society Register, 1850-1946.

#### READING (C).

Reading was settled in 1639, and its (First) church was gathered in 1645.

In 1713, the residents of northern Reading successfully petitioned to become a separate precinct, taking the title of the Precinct on the North Side of Ipswich River and Sadlor's Rock. Reading's Second Church was gathered in this precinct in 1720.

On Feb. 21, 1770, the settlers of southern Reading were permitted to gather their own church, Reading's Third, and it is with this church we now have to do. Its parish took the designation "Third" or "West," and made the transition to the status of a society in 1828, receiving incorporation as the Third Congregational Society in that year.

A dispute over church discipline in 1849 saw a number of the members of the Third Church withdrawing to form the Bethesda Congregational Church; those continuing as the Third Church styled themselves "the Old South Church." The Old South Parish was incorporated in 1880.

In 1853, the northern precinct was made the town of North Reading, and carried with it the 1720 church. At this point, the 1770 (Old South) church and parish became known as "the Second (South) in Reading."

The remainder of old Reading was divided in 1868 into the



towns of Reading and Wakefield. Wakefield carried with it the 1645 church, Reading the 1770 church. In 1886 Bethesda and (Old) South merged as the First Church of Reading, settling in the building formerly used by Bethesda Church.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers: Thomas Haven (ord. 1770; d. 1782)  
Peter Sanborn (ord. 1790; dism. 1820; d. 1857)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Jonathan Temple (e. 1770; d. ca. 1788)  
Samuel Bancroft (e. 1770; d. 1782)  
Timothy Pratt, Jr. (e. 1778; d. 1798)  
James Bancroft (e. 1784; d. 1831)  
John Temple (e. 1795; d. 1823)  
Ens. Benjamin Pratt (e. 1795; d. 1843)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited with the town Tax Collector.

CR I - "Parish [sic] Records Dating from 1770 - Handle With Care." Church records, 1770-1820.

CR II - "Records of the South Church in Reading, Mass." 1820-1836.

CR III - "Records of the South Church in Reading, Mass." 1837-1855.

PR I - Parish Records, 1769-1820.

PR II - Parish Records, 1821-1854.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors Rate Books, 1770-1815, 1816-1823, 1821-1865; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1769-1817, 1818-1847, 1844-1846, 1846-1848, 1848-1885.

In addition to the church's several published manuals, see the item owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston: Edith Bancroft, typescript, "First Congregational Church in Reading 1770-1945 Its History as Found in Ancient Record and Present Memory."

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1. The building formerly used by (Old) South Church was purchased by a Methodist organization, which thereupon took the name of "the Old South Methodist Church."

READING, First Church (see North Reading).

READING, First Church and Parish (see Wakefield).

READING, Old South Church and Parish (see Reading).

READING, North Church (see North Reading).

READING, Second Parish, Second Congregational Society (see Reading).

READING, South Parish (see Reading).

READING, South Parish (see Wakefield).



READING, Third Congregational Society (see Reading).

READING, West Parish (see Reading).

READING, Westerly part of [and North East Part of Woburn]  
[Parish] (see Wilmington).

#### REHOBOTH (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 29, 1721 as the Second Church in Rehoboth.<sup>1</sup> It soon became known locally as the Palmer's River Church. The Second Precinct was organized about 1759, and the Trustees of the Second Precinct/Parish received incorporation in 1761.

In 1792, two acts of incorporation were passed by the state legislature, the one naming the Catholick Congregational Church and Society in the Second Precinct in the town of Rehoboth as a corporate body, the other recognizing as a distinct entity the Trustees of the same church and society. In 1848, the church and society were once again incorporated, and until about 1930, bore the title "Catholick Congregational." In the latter year, the term "Catholick" was dropped.

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1. The First Church, gathered in 1643, was located in that section of Rehoboth which in 1812 was set off as the town of Seekonk. Then, in 1862, a part of Seekonk (including the territory served by the First Church) was ceded to Rhode Island, and became part of East Providence.

Ministers: David Turner (ord. 1721; d. 1757)  
 Robert Rogerson (ord. 1759; d. 1799)  
 Otis Thompson (ord. 1800; dismiss. 1826;  
 d. 1859)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Thomas Ormsby (e. 1721)  
 Elisha May (e. 1721)  
 John Wilmarth (e. 1731)  
 Abiah Carpenter (e. 1738)  
 Joshua Smith (e. 1744)  
 Thomas Carpenter (e. 1744)  
 Stephen Moulton (e. 1750; cta. 1772)  
 Ephraim Bliss (e. 1762)  
 Joshua Smith (e. 1762 ?)  
 Daniel Bliss (served between 1762 and 1791)  
 John Brown (e. 1791)  
 Calvin Jacobs (e. 1801)

The records antedating 1825 disappeared about that time, and are generally presumed to have been taken by the minister dismissed in 1826 by the church. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

VS I - "Record of Baptisms in the Congregational Church in Rehoboth, Ms. Ab annum 1721 ad annum 1814."

CR I - Church Records, 1825-1857.

CR II - "A Record of the Congregational Church in Rehoboth commenced January 1st AD 1858." 1858-1911.

CR II COPY - Church Records, 1889-1890.

PR I - "Book for Records & Soforth. The Second Precinct Book of Records in Rehoboth Whare in y<sup>e</sup> Preinct Proceedings are Recorded - By William Bullock Clerk of Preinct March y<sup>e</sup> 25th 1759." Precinct records, 1759-1792; society records, 1792-1827.

SR II - "The Second Book of Records of the Incorporated Catholic Congregational Church and Society in the Second Precinct in the town of Rehoboth October 31st. 1827." Society records, 1827-1843.

SR III - "The third Book of Societies Records Rehoboth March 2nd A.D. 1844." 1844-1870.



SR IV - "The Fourth Book of Societies Records Rehoboth April 1870 James H. Percy, Clerk." 1870-1930.

Miscellaneous records: Church and Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1857-1926; Precinct/Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1759-1830.

See also Otis Thompson, A Sermon, Preached November 29, 1821, the Day which Completed One Hundred Years since the Organization of the Congregational Church in Rehoboth, Mass. (Taunton, 1821); Leonard Bliss, Jr., The History of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts (Boston, 1836); Sylvanus C. Newman, Rehoboth in the Past: An Historical Oration Delivered on the Fourth of July, 1860 (Pawtucket, R.I., 1860); Isaac R. Prior, Sermon Delivered at the One Hundred and Fifty-Third Anniversary of the Congregational Church, of Rehoboth, Mass. Sunday, December 6th, 1874 (Central Falls, R.I., 1875); D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Bristol County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1883); George H. Tilton, A History of Rehoboth, Massachusetts (Boston, 1918); Richard L. Bowen, Early Rehoboth: Documented Historical Studies of Families and Events in This Plymouth Colony Township (Rehoboth, 1945-1950), 4 vols.

REHOBOTH, Separate (C), extinct.

This Separate church was gathered in May of 1748 by Rehoboth New Lights; it became extinct shortly after the death of its second minister.

Ministers: John Paine (ord. 1748; rem. 1751 ?)  
Samuel Peck (ord. 1751; d. 1788)

Ruling elders and deacons: nothing is known of the lay officers of this church.

No records of this church have survived. See the several histories cited under the preceding entry, and also Isaac Backus, A [Church] History of New England, III (Boston, 1796), p. 53; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and



The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 161, 268; C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 94. Weis errs in making Peck a Baptist and locating his church at Seekonk.

[REHOBOTH, South (C), extinct.]

The early history of this church is closely interwoven with that of Rehoboth's several Baptist churches, although when it was gathered on Jan. 20, 1773, it was established on open communion principles.<sup>1</sup>

By 1796, this open communion church was<sup>2</sup> worshipping jointly with John Hix's "Fifth Baptist Church," and early in the nineteenth century the two churches appear to have become one, taking the name of "The First Christian Church," which in due time was renamed in consequence of the Congregational-Christian merger of 1931. The church, after several years of inactivity, became extinct in 1964.

Minister: Jacob Hix<sup>3</sup> (ord. 1773; d. 1809)

Ruling elders and deacons: nothing is known of the lay officers of this church.

No records of this church antedating 1809 have survived. See the secondary sources cited under the two preceding Rehoboth entries, especially Backus, op. cit., pp. 148-159; Bliss, ibid.; Hurd, op. cit., pp. 463-494.

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 268, lists this as the "Seventh Baptist Church," although its minister never became a Baptist.

2. So designated by Weis, loc. cit.

3. Sometimes given as "Hicks."



REHOBOTH, First Church and Precinct/Parish/Society (see Seekonk).

REHOBOTH, The (Incorporated) Catholick Congregational Church and Society (see Rehoboth (C)).

REHOBOTH, Palmer's River Church (see Rehoboth (C)).

REHOBOTH, Second Church and Precinct/Parish (see Rehoboth (C)).

REVERE, First (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on Oct. 19, 1715 as the Church at Rumney Marsh, an area which in 1739 became part of the newly-created town of Chelsea. The First Church and Parish in 1846 became known as the First Church and Parish in North Chelsea; in 1871, North Chelsea was set off as the town of Revere, and church and parish were duly renamed. The First Unitarian Society received incorporation in 1888, but shortly thereafter both society and church became extinct.

Ministers: Thomas Cheever (ord. Malden 1681;  
re-ord. here 1715;  
d. 1749)  
William McClenachen (ord. 1748; dism. 1754;  
rem. 1758)  
Phillips Payson, D.D. (ord. 1757; d. 1801)  
Joseph Tuckerman, D.D. (ord. 1801; res. and  
dism. 1826; d. 1840)

Ruling elders: Capt. Samuel Watts (e. 1735; d. 1770)  
Deacon William Hassey (e. 1735; d. 1753)

Deacons: John Tuttle, Sr. (e. 1715; res. 1720; d. ca. 1723)  
John Chamberlane (e. 1720; res. 1749; d. 1753)  
William Hassey<sup>1</sup> (e. 1729; elev. to ruling elder  
1735; d. 1753)  
Jacob Hassey (e. 1735; res. 1748; d. 1753)  
Daniel Watts (e. 1749; d. 1760)  
Benjamin Brintal (e. 1749; d. 1786)  
John Sale (e. 1769; res. 1798; d. 1803)  
Joshua Cheever (e. 1782; res. 1806; d. 1813)  
William Harris (e. 1798; d. 1824)

The records are owned and held by the Library of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

CR I - "Rumny-marish Church-book: 1715." 1715-1757.

VS I PUB - Henry M. Dexter, "Record of Baptisms (1715-1747) Set Down in the First Volume of the Records of the Church at 'Rumney-Marsh' (No. Chelsea, Ms.), in the Handwriting of Its First Pastor, Thomas Cheever," NEHGR, XX (1866), 328-332.

CR II - "The Records of y<sup>e</sup> Church at Chelsea, Beginning July y<sup>e</sup> 28, 1757." 1757-1800.

CR III - "Joseph Tuckerman. November 7, 1801. Records of the church in Chelsea." 1801-1828.

CR IV - "Horatio Alger - September 1829 - George M. Rice - September 1844. Records of the first church in Chelsea." 1829-1869.

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1. The elections of Samuel Tuttle and William Hassey to the diaconate in 1720 were voided by the church later the same year; nine years later, Hassey was again elected.



Certain of the church records were published by Mellen Chamberlain in his A Documentary History of Chelsea including the Boston Precincts of Winnisimmet, Rumney Marsh, and Pullen Point, 1624-1824 (Boston, 1908), two vols. However, the baptismal and death notices are taken out of context and relegated to an appendix, all notices of ecclesiastical councils are omitted, and the running records of church disciplinary proceedings are abbreviated with names frequently being wholly omitted.

# RICHMOND (C).

The church was gathered in 1765, the same year in which the parish was organized. The Congregational Society was organized in 1824, and dissolved soon after the church was incorporated in 1892.

Ministers: Job Swift, D.D. (ord. 1767; dism. 1774; d. 1804)  
David Perry (inst. 1784; dism. 1816;  
d. 1817)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Silas Parmelee (e. ca. 1767; d. 1776)  
James Gates, Esq. (e. 1785; d. 1805)  
John Hall (e. 1785; m. 1792; rem. n.d.)  
William Osborn (e. after 1785; rem. n.d.)  
John Gaston (e. 1802; rem. 1834)

There are no church records antedating 1784; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Richmond, August 25th Ad 1784, Records of the Church of Christ in Richmond, under the pastoral charge of David Perry." 1784-1822.

CR II - "Records of the Church in Richmond, 1822. Volume 2." 1822-1853.

CR III - "Records of The Congregational Church in Richmond, Mass: 1854. Volume Third." 1854-1883.

CR IV - "Records of The Congregational Church in Richmond, Mass: January 1st, 1884, to Dec. 30, 1892. Volume Fourth."

CR V - Church Records, 1892-1899.

SR I - "Records of the Congregational Society of Richmond, Commencing March 25 A.D. 1824." 1824-1869.

SR II - Society Records, 1870-1899.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1824-1882, 1883-1907.

See also the church's manuals (Pittsfield, 1855, 1886 and n.p., 1908), all entitled Manual of The Congregational Church in Richmond.

ROADTOWN, Church (see Shutesbury).

ROCHESTER, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 13, 1703. The town was organized in 1686, and its people had been successively ministered to by Samuel Shiverick (1683-1687) and Samuel Arnold, Jr. (1687-1703; ord. 1703; d. 1709).

Three precincts were set off in turn, the second (1736) eventually becoming Mattapoisett, the third (1791) what is now called "North Rochester," and the fourth (1798) present-day Marion.

The minister ordained at Rochester First in 1799 served the two congregations of one church until 1827, when, on the advice of an ecclesiastical council, the church was divided into two distinct bodies. The minister of the 1703 church chose to remain at Marion; the man who was to have been his colleague was ordained to serve Rochester First Church. By



terms of the division, the records (and continuity) were to remain at Rochester, and a copy of the records to be provided the Marion church. The Marion church further agreed to take the name "South Church" rather than "First Church," the latter title belonging to the Rochester body,<sup>1</sup> although that church more frequently employed the name "Center Church." The Proprietors of the Meeting House were organized in 1837. The old parish was dissolved in 1946, at the time of the church's incorporation.

Ministers: Samuel Arnold, Jr. (sett. 1687; ord. 1703; d. 1709)  
 Timothy Ruggles (ord. 1710; d. 1768)  
 Jonathan Moore (ord. 1768; dism. 1792; d. 1814)<sup>2</sup>  
 Oliver Cobb, D.D. (ord. 1799, serving congregations here and at Marion; rem. to Marion 1827; d. 1849)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Abraham Holmes (e. 1703)  
 John Freeman (e. 1729 ?; m. 1732; dism.)  
 Roger Haskell (e. 1729 ?; dism. 1739)  
 Elisha Freeman (e. 1739; m. 1757)  
 Ebenezer Hamlin (e. 1739; dism. 1739-1740)  
 Samuel Winslow (e. 1740 ?)  
 James Foster (e. 1748; m. 1770)  
 John Winslow (e. 1748; suspended 1751; res. 1752)  
 Seth Dexter (e. 1752; m. 1787)  
 Richard Church, Jr. (e. 1774)

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1. Apparently the records were allocated in direct contradiction to the terms of the agreement. This may have inclined Frederick L. Weis to present his data for Rochester First Church under Marion. See The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 258.

2. Isaac Backus, A [Church] History of New England, III (Boston, 1796), pp. 75ff., remarks that upon being dismissed for "gross immoralities," Moore led a separation from the church which lasted some thirty months.



James Foster, 2nd	(e. 1776; suspended 1791, re-instated; res. 1799; d. 1811)
Ebenezer Clark	(e. 1782; m. 1792)
Elijah Dexter	(e. 1782; m. 1799)
William Sherman	(e. 1799; d. 1814) <sup>1</sup>

The records antedating 1725 were reported lost by Cobb in 1799. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1725-1793. Presumed destroyed at Marion in the hurricane of 1938.

CR I COPY - "A True Copy of the 'Ancient Book of Records' of the First Church of Christ in Rochester. Done at Rochester AD. 1900. Alice M. Bolles, Copyist." 1725-1793, with admissions to 1858.

CR II - "Congregational Church Records Rochester Mass." (Flyleaf: "No. 2 First Congregational Church of Rochester Organized Oct. 13th 1703.") 1798-1873.

CR III - "Rochester Center Congregational Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Vol. No. 3.") 1874-1905.

PR I - MISSING, Parish Records, -1870.

PR II - Parish Records, 1870-1926.

#### ROCHESTER, North (C).

The church was gathered in 1753 as the Third (North) Church in Rochester, although the Third Precinct was not set off

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1. History and Manual of the First Congregational Church Rochester, Mass. 1703 1909 (n.p., 1909) notes that Samuel Arnold, Jr., son of the first minister, is frequently termed "Deacon Arnold" in old documents, and that a Deacon Whiteridge is similarly mentioned in 1780.



until 1791.<sup>1</sup> In 1793 the latter body was incorporated as the Congregational Precinct in Rochester, Middleborough, and Freetown. The Proprietors of the Congregational Meeting House had organized in 1791; in 1825 they were superceded by the newly-incorporated Trustees of the Third Congregational Precinct in Rochester, Middleborough and Freetown. The North Rochester Congregational Church was incorporated in 1891.

Ministers: Thomas West (sett. 1748; d. 1790)  
Calvin Chaddock (ord. 1793; rem. 1804;  
d. 1823)

Ruling elders and deacons: in the absence of church records, no names of lay officers of the church have survived.

There are no church records antedating 1891; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1891-present.

PR I - "Book 1st Records of the Congregational Precinct of Rochester, Middleborough & Freetown." 1793-1841.

PR II - "Book 2d. Records of the Congregational Precinct of Rochester Middleborough & Freetown." 1842-1904.

Miscellaneous records: Precinct Trustees Records, 1825-1844, 1825-1888.

See "Topography and History of Rochester, Mass. 1815," MHSC, 2nd Ser., IV (1816, rep. 1846), 250-257; Abraham Holmes, "Topographical Description of the Town of Rochester, in the County of Plymouth," op. cit., 2nd Ser., X (1823, rep. 1843), 29-40; History and Manual of the First Congregational Church Rochester, Mass. 1703 1909 (n.p., 1909).

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1. Rochester's First Church was gathered in 1703; the church of the Second Precinct (now Mattapoisett) was gathered in 1736.

ROCHESTER, Fourth (Congregational) Precinct (see Marion).

ROCHESTER, Second Church, Precinct and Meeting House (see Mattapoisett).

ROCHESTER, South Church (see Marion).

ROCHESTER, Third Church and Parish (see Rochester, North).

ROCHESTER CENTER, Church (see Rochester, First).

ROCHESTER, MIDDLEBOROUGH AND FREETOWN, (Third) Precinct (see Rochester, North).



## ROCKPORT, First (C).

The church was gathered on Feb. 13, 1755 as the Fifth Church in Gloucester (Sandy Bay Church), the Fifth Parish having been incorporated the previous year. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1827.

In 1840, the area was made the town of Rockport, and the names of the church and parish (now society) were duly changed to "the First in Rockport." The society was dissolved in 1937, at the time of the church's incorporation.

Ministers: Ebenezer Cleaveland (ord. 1755; diss. 1784;  
re-sett. 1794; d. 1805)  
David Jewett (ord. 1805; diss. 1835;  
d. 1841)

Ruling elders: Edmund Grover (e. 1756; d. 1761)  
Jabez Baker (e. 1756; d. 1758)  
Deacon Samuel Davis (e. 1759; d. 1770)  
Deacon Jonathan Pool (e. 1761; d. 1776)  
Deacon Henry Witham (e. 1772; d. 1777)

Deacons: Henry Witham (e. 1756; elev. to ruling elder  
1772; d. 1777)  
Samuel Davis (e. 1756; elev. to ruling elder  
1759; d. 1770)  
Jonathan Pool (e. 1759; elev. to ruling elder  
1761; d. 1776)  
Ebenezer Grover (e. 1761; d. 1762)  
Caleb Pool (e. 1763; d. 1779)  
Jabez Rowe (e. 1772; d. 1811)

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted. CR I, CR II, PR I, PR II and SR III have been microfilmed, and a copy of the film is owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Record - Price 12/Lawfull Money - Purchased with 2 Dollars Given to the 5th Church of Christ in Gloucester by Elder Jabez Baker & Deacon Samuel Davis - Anno Domini 1756." 1755-1807, with vital statistics to 1834.

CR/PR I COPY - MS copy of miscellaneous church and parish votes, 1755-1779. Owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston.

VS ADM I - Admissions, 1756-1832.

CR II - "A record of the fifth church of Christ in Gloucester." 1805-1895.

VS ADM II - Admissions, 1805-1887.

VS ADM III - "Articles of Faith in the fifth church of Gloucester." With admissions, 1835-1837.

VS ADM IV - Admissions and miscellaneous statistics, 1891-1929.

VS MAR I - Marriages, 1805-1884.

VS BAP I - Baptisms, 1836-1883.

PR I - "Parish Book 1752 - February the 1 Day." 1752-1794.

PR I PUB - Calvin W. Pool, "Records of the Fifth Parish of Gloucester, now Rockport," EIHC, XXI (1884), 152-160, 225-240, 269-288, XXII (1885), 136-151, 235-240. Parish items, 1752-1771.

PR I COPY & PR II - "Parish Book . . . Sandy Bay Beginning the Year 1752 It being the Fifth Parish of Gloucester." Copy of PR I, with further records, 1794-1858.

SR III - Society Records, 1859-1905.

Miscellaneous records: Parish and Ministerial Fund Accounts, 1781-1858; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1815-1852; Ministerial Fund Accounts, 1825-1846.

ROCK(Y) HILL Church (see Amesbury, Rock(y) Hill Church.. This is the church of the Second or West Parish of Salisbury, but relocation of town lines brought it into Amesbury).



ROWE (U), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1770 as the Church in Myrifiield, an area which in 1785 was made the town of Rowe. The First Congregational Society was organized in 1832, and reorganized as the First Congregational Unitarian Society in 1882 when the church took the name of First Congregational Unitarian Church.

The church and society became extinct in recent years, its land and building becoming the property of the Rowe Unitarian Camp Corporation.

Ministers: Cornelius Jones (ord. Sandisfield 1756; sett. here 1770; d. 1783)  
 Preserved Smith (ord. 1787; diss. and rem. 1804; re-sett. 1812; res. 1821; d. 1834)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Archibald Thomas (e. ca. 1770; d. 1793)  
 Jonas Gleason (e. ca. 1770; d. 1815)  
 Henry Wilson (m. 1786)  
 Nathan Foster (m. 1797-1804)

Virtually all records of the church have been destroyed<sup>1</sup> or disappeared. The Rowe Public Library holds one volume which contains Society Assessors Accounts, 1832-1834, together with town tax records. The Rowe Unitarian Camp Corporation reportedly holds a book of Society Records, beginning with entries for 1832, but this could not be obtained for examination.

See also Percy W. Brown, History of Rowe, Massachusetts, 3rd ed. (Adams, Mass., 1960).

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1. Brown, op. cit., p. 48, reports the loss of most of the records in a disastrous parsonage fire.

ROWLBERRY Parish (see Byfield).

ROWLEY, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 3, 1639, and its parish organized in 1733. The church was incorporated as the First Congregational Church in 1889; the parish was dissolved in 1947.

Ministers:	Ezekiel Rogers	(ord. pastor 1639; d. 1660/61)
	John Miller	(ruling elder Roxbury 1637- 1639; assistant minister here 1639; rem. 1641; d. 1663) <sup>1</sup>
	John Brock	(assistant minister 1648; rem. 1650; d. 1688)
	Samuel Phillips	(ord. teacher 1651; d. 1696) <sup>2</sup>
	Samuel Shepard	(ord. pastor 1665; d. 1668)
	Jeremiah Shepard	(assistant minister 1673; dism. 1680; d. 1720)
	Edward Payson	(ord. teacher 1682; d. 1732)
	Jedidiah Jewett	(ord. colleague 1729; d. 1774)
	Ebenezer Bradford	(ord. 1782; d. 1801)
	David Tullar	(ord. 1803; dism. 1810; d. 1839)

Ruling elder: Humphrey Reyner (e. 1639; d. before 1661)

Deacons:	Maximillian Jewett	(e. 1639; d. 1684)
	Thomas Mighill	(e. 1639; d. before 1656)
	Francis Parrat	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1656; rem. 1656)
	Matthew Boyes	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1656; rem. 1657)

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1. Samuel Mather (b. 1626; d. 1671) served briefly as assistant minister to Rogers, following Miller's removal.

2. Phillips assumed the title of pastor to Payson's teacher in 1682.



Samuel Brocklebank	(e. 1666; d. 1676)
William Tenney	(e. 1668; d. 1685)
John Pearson <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1686; d. 1692)
John Trumbull	(e. 1686; rem. n.d.)
Ezekiel Jewett	(e. 1686; d. 1723)
Samuel Palmer	(e. 1708; d. 1719)
Timothy Harris	(e. 1708; d. 1723)
Sgt. Humphrey Hobson	(e. 1723; d. 1742)
Sgt. Joseph Boynton	(e. 1723; d. 1755)
Edward Payson	(e. 1740; d. 1769)
Francis Pickard	(e. 1740; d. 1778)
David Bailey	(e. 1761; d. 1769)
Moses Clark	(e. 1769; d. 1791)
Ens. Thomas Mighill	(e. 1769; d. 1807)
Jeremiah Jewett	(e. 1769; d. 1809)
George Jewett	(e. 1791; d. 1829)

The church records antedating 1664 have long since disappeared; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1664-1784, with addenda to 1796.

C MISC - Minister's Extract Book, 1730-1783. Contains marriage records.

CR II - Church Records, 1742-1782. (Back of book contains a set of parish records, 1728-1763).

VS DEATHS PUB - George B. Blodgett, "Copy of the Record of Deaths of the First Church in Rowley, 1696-1777," EIHC, XIV (1877), 49-59, 94-109, 172-187. (Offprinted Salem, 1878.)

VS DISM PUB - George B. Blodgett, "Dismissions from the First Church, 1684-1774," EIHC, XIV (1877), 149-152.

VS PUB - George B. Blodgett, "Early Records of Rowley: First Record of the First Church," EIHC, XXXIV (1898), 77-116, XXXV (1899), 103-128, 243-256, 273-303. (Offprinted Salem, 1898.)

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1. See "Extracts from the Ledger of Deacon John Pearson of Rowley," NEHGR, XII (1858), 137-138.

CR III - "Book of Church Records. Belonging to the 1st Church of Christ in Rowley. Begun at the Settlement of the Revd. Ebenezer Bradford. Augt. 4. 1782." 1782-1835.

CR IV - "Church Record Rowley." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Congregational Church, Rowley, Mass.") Incomplete extract of CR I; church records, 1840-1870.

CR V - "Record. First Congregational Church Records, 1870 to 1929." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Congregational Church. Rowley, Mass. Commencing Dec. 20th 1870. to Dec. 29, 1929.")

CCORP I - "Records of The First Congregational Church, Rowley prior to & following incorporation. From April 8, 1889 To Jan. 2, 1941." Church corporation records.

[PR I - Parish Records, 1728-1763. In back of CR II.]

PR II - "Parish Records 1733 To 1782."

PR III - "Parish Book. From 1781 to 1882."

PR IV - "Parish Records 1822 to 1870."

PR V - Parish Records, 1892-1903.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1743-1832, 1833-1862; Pew Records, 1842-1902.

See also Thomas Gage, The History of Rowley, anciently including Bradford, Boxford, and Georgetown, from the Year 1639 to the Present Time (Boston, 1840); J. L. Ewell, "Ezekiel Rogers, the First Minister of Rowley," NEM, N.S. XXI (1899), 3-22; Amos E. and Emily M. A. Jewett, Rowley, Massachusetts: "M<sup>r</sup> Ezechi Rogers Plantation," 1639-1850 (Rowley, 1946).

ROWLEY, Second Church and Precinct/Parish (see Georgetown).



ROWLEY, West Parish (see Georgetown).

ROXBURY (see Boston, Roxbury).

ROYALSIDE Precinct (see Beverly, Second).

ROYALSTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 13, 1766, and the First Parish or Congregational Society organized in 1831. The church was incorporated in 1896.

Minister: Joseph Lee (ord. 1768; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Capt. John Frye	(e. 1768; d. 1814)
	Benjamin Woodbury	(e. 1768; res. 1779; d. 1793)
	Maj. John Bachelor	(e. 1779; res. 1802; rem. 1810)
	Isaac Nichols	(e. 1781; res. 1787)
	Ammi Faulkner	(e. 1785; res. 1821)
	Isaac Gregory	(e. 1795; d. 1808)
	Samuel Goddard, Jr.	(e. 1802; res. 1809)

The first volume of church records was probably destroyed by fire some years ago; it was last reported extant in 1861. The extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1766-1818.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in Royalston, Volume II." 1818-1861.

CR III - "Records of the Doings of the First Congregational Church in Royalston -- Commencing June 9th, 1861." 1861-1893.

CR IV - Church Records, 1893-1919.

P/SR I - "Records of the first Parish or Congregational Society, 1831-1899."

PROP I - "Records of the Proprietors of the first Congregational Meeting House in the center of Royalston." 1847-1884.

See also Joseph Lee, A Half-Century Discourse, Delivered Monday, Oct. 19, 1818; Being the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Ordination (Worcester, 1819); E. W. Bullard, A Historical Discourse Delivered Sabbath, Oct. 14, 1866, in Commemoration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the First Congregational Church in Royalston, Mass. (Worcester, 1866); Lilley B. Caswell, The History of the Town of Royalston, Massachusetts (Royalston, 1917).

RUMNEY MARSH, Church (see Revere).

RUSSELL (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Nov. 1, 1800, never settled a minister, and became inactive by 1843. The Congregational Society, organized in 1797, was dissolved in 1868.

Ministers: none.



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Seth Gridley (e. 1800; res. 1824)  
Levi Chapman (e. 1800; rem. 1807)

The first volume of church records disappeared many years ago, but much of its contents were preserved in CR II, according to the following memorandum on p. 1 of that volume: "The first book of records being small & filled up, The most important and necessary parts of it are transcribed into this -- The Articles of covenant & Faith adopted at first by the church are omitted, & those inscribed which were adopted in February 1830 -- The new record begins in 1830. This church was organized Nov. 1st. 1800. By Joseph Badger -- late Pastor of the church in Blandford." Another memorandum, p. 3, adds: "The cases of discipline in the church, are not drawn off from the old record."

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1800-1830.

CR II - "Records of the Russel Congregational Church, 1830." Abstract of records, 1800-1830; church records, 1830-1833.

See also Annual Report of the Town Officers, Town of Russell, 1942 (n.p., 1942), pp. 93-97.

#### RUTLAND (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 9, 1727; its parish, organized early in the nineteenth century, was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1891.

Ministers:	Joseph Willard	(sett. 1721; d. 1723)
	Thomas Frink	(ord. 1727; res. 1740; d. 1777)
	Joseph Buckminster	(ord. 1742; d. 1792)
	Hezekiah Goodrich	(ord. 1793; d. 1812)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Samuel Wright (e. 1728)  
Joseph Stevens (e. 1728)

Eleazar Ball	(e. 1738)
Ephraim Davis	(e. 1746)
John Stone	(e. 1753)
John Reed <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1772)
Jonas Howe	(e. 1772)
Samuel Davis	(e. 1783)

Virtually all records antedating 1849 were destroyed in a church fire in that year; the extant records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

VS - Minister's Marriage and Death Records, 1813-1817.  
Owned and held by the American Antiquarian Society (Manuscript Room), Worcester.

CR I - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Rutland. Commencing December 1:1849." 1849-1890.

CR II - Church Records, 1891-1918.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1857-1891.

See also The History Articles of Faith, Covenant & Standing Rules of the First Congregational Church in Rutland, Mass. Together with a Catalogue of Officers and Members, January 1, 1859 (Worcester, 1858); Manual of the First Congregational Church, Rutland, Mass. Containing a History of the Church, Form of Admission with Articles of Faith, By-Laws of the Church, and a List of the Officers and Members (n.p., 1892).

RUTLAND DISTRICT, Church and Society (see Barre).

RUTLAND WEST WING Precinct (see Oakham).

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1. Sometimes given as "Jonas Reed."



RYAL SIDE (see Beverly, Second).

SAGUS (see Lynn).

SALEM, First Congregational Society (U).

This, the first Non-Separatist Congregational church to be organized on American soil, was gathered on (or, more probably, shortly before) July 20, 1629. The Proprietors of the Meeting House were organized in 1746, and the First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1817.

Ministers: Samuel Skelton	(ord. pastor 1629; d. 1634)
Francis Higginson	(ord. teacher 1629; d. 1630)
Roger Williams	(sett. as teacher 1631; rem. to Plymouth 1631; returned to Salem as assistant 1633; dism. 1635; d. 1683)
Hugh Peter	(ord. pastor 1636; rem. 1641; d. 1660)
John Fiske	(sett. as assistant 1637; rem. 1640; d. 1676/77)
Edward Norris	(ord. teacher 1639/40; d. 1659)
John Higginson	(ord. pastor 1660; d. 1708)
Charles Nicholet	(preached 1671-1672; rem. 1672)
Nicholas Noyes	(ord. teacher 1683; d. 1717)
George Curwin	(ord. pastor 1714; d. 1717)
Samuel Fiske	(ord. 1718; dism. 1735 to become pastor of Salem's Tabernacle Church; d. 1770)

John Sparhawk	(ord. 1736; d. 1755)
Thomas Barnard, A.M.	(inst. 1755; d. 1776)
Asa Dunbar	(ord. colleague 1772; dism. 1779; d. 1787)
John Prince, LL.D.	(ord. 1779; d. 1836)

Ruling elders:	Henry Houghton	(e. 1629; d. 1630)
	Samuel Sharp	(e. 1630; d. ca. 1647)
	John Browne <sup>1</sup>	(e. 1660; res. 1664; ret. to serv- ice 1680; d. 1685) <sup>2</sup>
	Judge Benjamin Lynde, Sr., Esq.	(e. 1736; d. 1754)
	John Nutting	(e. 1736; res. 1771)
	Benjamin Lynde, Esq.	(e. 1754; d. ca. 1784)
	Nathaniel Ropes	(e. 1772; d. ca. 1774)
	Ebenezer Putnam, Esq.	(e. 1774; d. 1788)
	John Appleton	(e. 1782; d. ca. 1816)
	Ebenezer Bickford	(e. 1789; d. ca. 1816) <sup>3</sup>

Deacons:	Charles Gott	(e. 1629; rem. 1653/54; d. 1667/68)
	John Horne	(e. 1629; d. 1683/84) <sup>4</sup>

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1. See B. F. B., "Notices of Elder John Browne and Some of His Descendents," EIHC, VIII (1866), 33-48.

2. The office of ruling elder was allowed to lapse from 1685 to 1736, being revived in the latter year to prevent the power of office from coming to reside exclusively in the hands of the minister.

3. Ruling elders were again elected in 1817.

4. Although the records for 1653/54-1679 are fragmentary, some evidence exists to suggest that Richard Prince served as a deacon at this time. See James A. Emmerton, "Deacon Richard Prince of Salem, and Some of His Descendents," EIHC, XIV (1877), pp. 249-256.



Hilliard Veren	(e. and ord. 1680; d. 1683)
Eli Gidney <sup>1</sup>	(e. and ord. 1680; d. 1683 ?)
Benjamin Gerrish	(e. 1684; ord. 1686; d. 1713)
John Marston	(e. 1684; ord. 1686; d. ca. 1725)
Capt. Simon Willard	(e. 1713; rem. to Salem's Second Church 1718; d. 1731)
Peter Osgood	(e. 1718; rem. 1735; returned 1736; d. 1753) <sup>2</sup>
Samuel Ropes	(e. 1736; d. 1761 ?)
William Osgood	(e. 1738)
John Bickford	(e. 1740; d. 1788)
Joshua Ward	(e. 1754; rem. to Salem's North Church 1771; d. 1779)
Abraham Gray	(e. 1772; d. 1791)
Lewis Hunt	(e. 1789; d. 1797)
Thomas Hartshorne	(e. 1791; elev. to ruling elder 1817; d. 1819)

Thomas Barnard, minister here from 1755 to 1776, remarked that the early church records, 1629-1660, were missing at the time of his installation. However, he apparently either did not know of or did not count the Fiske records of 1637-1640. And to some extent the lacuna can be filled by the reports of Winthrop and other contemporaries of the Salem congregation's early years.

The extant records are divided between the church and the Essex Institute, Salem; items held by the latter repository are designated by an asterisk (\*).

Not listed below, but worthy of note are Charles Gott's description of the gathering of the church, in "Governour Bradford's Letter Book," MHSC, 1st Ser., III (1794; rep. 1810), 67-68; and "Fragment of a Diary Kept By Rev. Samuel Fiske of Salem, 1719-1721," EIHC, LI (1915), 282-289, the original being owned and held by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1629-1660. Sequestered by vote of the church in 1660; lost by 1755.

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1. Sometimes given as "Eleazar Gidney."

2. Osgood was a supporter of Rev. Samuel Fiske, and followed his minister into separation from the church in 1735, joining in the subsequent gathering of the (now) Tabernacle Church of Salem. In 1736, Osgood led a number of erstwhile Fiske supporters back to the ancient church, and was himself confirmed in his diaconal office.



CR I FISKE - "John Fiske's note-book." Minister's private record, covering Salem 1637-1640, Wenham (1644-1655), and Chelmsford (1655-1675).\*

CR I FISKE COPY PULSIFER - "Salem Church record 1637." MS copy of CR I FISKE, made in 1857 by David Pulsifer.\*

CR I FISKE PUB PULSIFER - David Pulsifer, "Extracts from Records Kept by the Rev. John Fiske, during his Ministry at Salem, Wenham and Chelmsford," EIHC, I (1859), 37-44. Selective.

CR I FISKE COPY PULSIFER TS - "Rev. John Fiske's note-book 1637-1675." Typescript copy of CR I FISKE COPY PULSIFER.\*

CR II - "Records of the First Church of Salem, from 1629 to 1736." Extracts from CR I and/or CR I FISKE; original records, 1660-1743, with baptisms to 1748.

CR II COPY BARNARD - "Records of the first Church in Salem. Copied by Thomas Barnard Pastor of sd Church. NB. The Records of sd Church from AD 1629 to AD 1660 are probably now utterly lost, as may appear from the Chh Votes Page [blank] excepting the Chh Covenant in the following Page."\* Copy of church records, 1629, 1636, 1660-1772.<sup>1</sup>

CR I FISKE & CR II PUB WHITE - Daniel A. White, New England Congregationalism in Its Origin and Purity; Illustrated by the Foundation and Early Records of the First Church in Salem, and Various Discussions Pertaining to the Subject (Salem, 1861). A selective publication, with orthography modernized.<sup>2</sup>

1. A valuable record, this book consists in three distinct parts: (a) Barnard's private copy of First Church records, 1629, 1636, 1660-1672; (b) records of lay officers of the North Church of Salem, 1772-1773; (c) records of the North Church kept by the Rev. Thomas Barnard, Jr., 1773-1813.

2. An assessment of White's use of the records, together with corrections of vital statistics printed therein, is provided in James A. Emerton, "Notes and Extracts from the 'Records of the First Church of Salem, 1629 to 1736,'" EIHC, XV (1878), 70-85, XVI (1879), 8-18.



CR II COPY 1935 - "(9/15/35) Records of the First Church of Salem 1629 to 1736." MS copy of CR II, made in 1935; 578 loose pages.<sup>1</sup>

CR II COPY 1935 TS - "Records of the First Church of Salem 1629 to 1736." Typescript copy of CR II COPY 1935; 416 loose pages.

CR III - Church Records, 1736-1835.<sup>2</sup>

CR III DUP - Minister's Record of Church Acts, 1824-1829.

CR IV - "Records of First Church." MS copy of CR II-III; church records, 1830-1877.

VS BAP PUB I - Henry Wheatland, "Baptisms of the First Church in Salem," EIHC, V (1864), 227-228, 237-244, VI (1865), 12-16, 84-86, 119-128, 168-184, 221-232, 262-271, VII (1866), 10-16, 75-82, 150-158, 205-215.

VS BAP PUB II - James A. Emmerton, "Salem Baptisms," EIHC, XXII (1885), 177-192, 241-256, XXIII (1886), 1-16, 81-96, 161-184, 241-280. Alphabetical listing of persons baptized in all Salem churches during the 18th century.

VS BAP - "Baptisms for the Year 1793."

VS ADM I - Admissions, 1822-1879.

VS MAR I - "Record of Marriages by Samuel Fisk pastor of the first church in Salem." 1718-1746 (from 1735, the records pertain to the [now] Tabernacle Church of Salem).

VS MAR II - "Record of Marriages." 1881-1921.

VS MOR - "Return this to S. B. Buttrick (Doct. Prince's Mem.)." Bills of mortality, 1782-1835.

PROP I - "Records from Oct. 21st, 1746 to February 3d, 1816." Records of the Proprietors of the Meeting House.

1. Identified by Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 350, as the McSwiggin copy.

2. Oberholzer, loc. cit., claims that a typescript copy of CR III, prepared by WPA typists, was held by the church, but this could not be found.



PROP II - Proprietors Records, 1816-1846.<sup>1</sup>

SR III - MISSING, Society Records, 1846-1862.

SR IV - "Records of the 'First Congregational Society in Salem.' Vol. 3. 10-10-1862 -- 8-15-1890."

SR V - Society Records, 1890-1923.

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Accounts, 1662-1713, 1713-1848, 1813-1886, 1817-1901; Accounts of Meeting House Fund, 1717-1722; Proprietors/Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1756-1817, 1818-1858; Society Treasurer's Journals, 1840-1845, 1846-1853; Accounts of the Orne Bequest, 1827-1848; miscellaneous vols. entitled "Subscriber's to Rev. C. W. Upham's Salary," 1825-1828, 1829, 1833-1836; Pew Accounts, 1812, 1835-1846, 1846-1859, 1847-1848, 1849-1856, 1858, and general accounts, 1836-1866; Pew List, 1820; Pew Deeds, 1846-1907; Pew Sale Record, 1875.

SALEM, Second (U), extinct.

Long-standing concern for the creation of a second parish in eastern Salem took organizational form in 1717, when the "East Parish" opened its first book of records. Within a year, a meetinghouse had been erected, and the Proprietors of the Meeting House in the East Parish had come into being. Further impetus was provided in 1718 by the settlement of Samuel Fiske as pastor of the old Salem church, inasmuch as dissatisfaction with Fiske was apparently localized here in the East Parish. On Dec. 25, 1718, the old church granted dismissions to those persons in its east parish who wished to gather their own church, and so shortly thereafter, the Second (East) Church came into being.<sup>2</sup> In 1954-1956, the small surviving membership of the Second Church was absorbed by the First Church.

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1. At some point during the years 1817-1862, independent society records were begun, but the early volume(s ?) have dropped from sight.

2. Some authorities date the church's gathering on Nov. 14, 1718, but we suspect that that is the day on which the body known as the Proprietors was organized.



Ministers: Robert Sta(u)nton (ord. 1719; d. 1727)  
 William Jennison (ord. 1728; dism. 1736;  
 d. 1750)  
 James Diman (ord. 1737; d. 1788)  
 William Bentley, D.D. (ord. 1783; d. 1819)

Lay officers: lacking any early records, little is known of the lay officers of this church.

Deacons: Deacon Simon Willard (e. deacon Salem First 1713;  
 a founder of Salem Second  
 1718; d. 1731)  
 Richard Elvins (m. 1728; rem. 1744;  
 d. 1776)<sup>1</sup>

Wardens:<sup>2</sup> Capt. Benjamin Ward (e. 1786; m. 1791)  
 William Brown (e. 1786; m. 1791)

The church records for the years prior to 1897 have not been found, although at least some 18th century records were extant in 1792.<sup>3</sup> The extant records are divided between the First Church of Salem and the Essex Institute; items held by the latter repository are designated by an asterisk (\*). Not listed below, but worthy of note is The Diary of William Bentley, D.D., Pastor of the East Church, Salem, Massachusetts, 4 vols. (Gloucester, Mass., 1962, being a photo-offset copy of the 1905 edition). A large collection of

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1. "This Richard [Elvins] was a Baker in the eastern part of Salem & Deacon in the East Meeting House. During the life of W. Jennison, the Minister, he was often called to officiate, as Jennison was very eccentric. When he had begun he was unwilling to quit & therefore went eastward to preach & was ordained at Black point [i.e., Scarborough, Me., Second Parish], & married the widow of the Minister deceased, who was the mother of the present President Willard of Cambridge." The Diary of William Bentley, D.D. (Gloucester, Mass., 1962), II, p. 316. Elvins was a New Light in his theology.

2. A post created by the Proprietors in 1786, intended as an office analogous to that of the deacon in the church.

3. The Diary of William Bentley, D.D. (Gloucester, Mass., 1962), I, pp. 346-347.



Bentley's papers is owned and held by the American Anti-quarian Society, Worcester, including the minister's records of some church and parish happenings from 1784 to 1819.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1718-1897.

CR II - "Records. The Second Church in Salem, 1897." 1897-1927.

VS I - "East Church Salem 1784-1851." Vital statistics include: baptisms, 1784-1848; marriages, 1783-1853; list of families, 1868-1874.\*

VS I DUP BAP - "Record of Baptisms." Duplicate, 1784-1848.

VS I BENTLEY - "East Church Salem. 1785-1819. Births Marriages Deaths." (Flyleaf: "Duplicate Records of the Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, &c. in the East Parish, Salem, kept by Their late Pastor, William Bentley, for his private use.") With notes of church meetings, 1827, 1842.

VS I BENTLEY MOR PUB - "Parish List of Deaths Begun 1785, Recorded by Rev. William Bentley, D.D., of the East Church, Salem, Mass.," EIHC, XIV (1876), 129-148, 224-232, 286-298, XV (1877), 86-100, XVI (1879), 18-36, 191-203, XVIII (1881), 73-80, 129-144, 206-223, XIX (1882), 18-39, 91-104, 176-182, XX (1883), 209-214. 1785-1819.<sup>1</sup>

VS BAP PUB - James A. Emmerton, "Salem Baptisms," EIHC, XXII (1885), 177-192, 241-256, XXIII (1886), 1-16, 81-96, 161-184, 241-280. Alphabetical listing of persons baptized in all Salem churches during the 18th century.

VS II - Admissions, 1822-1868.\*

VS III - Vital Statistics, 1851-1953.

PR I - "East Church Salem. 1717-1757." Parish records.\*

PR II - "East Church. 1757-1792." Parish records.\*

PROP I - "East Meeting House Salem. Proprietors. 1783-1845." Proprietors records.\*

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1. Offprinted as Record of the Parish List of Deaths, 1785-1819 (Salem, 1882).



PROP II - "Ledger [sic]. East Society. 1845." Proprietors records, 1846-1899.\*

SR I - "East Church Salem. 1821-1831." Society records, largely charitable collections.\*

Miscellaneous records (\*): Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1722-1726, 1786-1863, 1792-1829; Parish Assessors' Rate Books, 1718, 1719-1720, 1720-1721, 1721-1722, 1723, 1729-1733, 1781-1782, 1781-1791, 1783-1800, 1801-1827, 1849-1852, 1859-1867, 1875-1887, 1887-1897; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1762-1812, Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1786-1829, Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1821-1846, 1846-1896, 1867-1875; Pew Deeds, 1846-1864, 1897-1900; Pew Accounts, 1827-1846, 1847-1850, 1853-1859; Records of the Parish Building Committee, 1844, 1844-1846.

See also the volume entitled "Salem, Mass. Churches. East Church. Sermons, and records of East Church. Salem, 1898," owned and held by the Essex Institute. Some memoranda but no records are included in the volume in question. See further James Flint, Two Discourses, Delivered on Taking Leave of the Old Church of the East Society in Salem; December 28, 1845 (Salem, 1846) and A Discourse Delivered on the Dedication of the New Church, Built for the Use of the East Church and Society, in Salem; January 1, 1846 (Salem, 1846).

#### SALEM, Third (Tabernacle) Church (C).<sup>1</sup>

Samuel Fiske's authoritarian ways as pastor of Salem's First Church provoked a minority of that church's membership to first invoke the aid of an ecclesiastical council and then to obtain legislative aid, the effect of which was Fiske's

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1. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 317, incorrectly associates Richard Elvins (see SALEM, Second) with this church, and misunderstands the relation between the names "Third Church" and "Tabernacle Church."



dismissal in 1735 from the ministry of the First Church. Fiske and his supporters, however, continued to meet and for the next twenty years styled themselves "the First Church."<sup>1</sup> It appears that the Fiske faction considered April 18, 1735 the date of their formal separation from their antagonists.

Fiske's successor, Dudley Leavitt, alienated many of the Fiske party. These returned to the ancient church in sufficient numbers so that by 1755, the parent body could claim a majority of the church membership that had existed in 1735. Therefore, in 1755 the ancient church voted to "take on them in all the public transactions the title of the First church of Salem."

The Fiske church voted in 1762 to surrender the title of "First Church" in exchange for a portion of the church plate and lands, and henceforth to be known as "The Third Church of Salem."<sup>2</sup> Before 1800, it had become popularly known as Tabernacle Church.

The Proprietors twice received incorporation, in 1781 as "The Proprietors of the Meeting House and Land where the Reverend Doctor Nathaniel Whitaker now preaches," and in 1834 as "The Proprietors of the Tabernacle Church."

Ministers:	Samuel Fiske	(ord. Salem First 1718; dism. 1735; sett. Salem Third 1735; dism. 1745; d. 1770)
	Dudley Leavitt	(ord. 1745; d. 1762)
	John Huntington	(ord. 1763; d. 1766)
	Nathaniel Whitaker, D.D.	(sett. 1769; dism. 1784; d. 1795)
	Joshua Spaulding	(ord. 1785; dism. 1802 and rem. to form a Presbyterian church; d. 1825)
	Samuel Worcester, D.D.	(inst. 1803; d. 1821)

Ruling eldership: instituting the ruling eldership in 1769, the church voted the unusual provision that the eldership should be subject to annual election to office. The following elections are known to have been held:

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1. On this phase of the church's history rests the present claim of Tabernacle Church to the founding date of 1629.
  2. A title later challenged by Salem's South Church.



Capt. John Gardner, Deacon James Ruck, Thorndike Proctor, Jacob Ashton, Benjamin Ropes, e. 1769.  
 Elders Gardner and Ropes, Miles Ward, Edward Dickford, John Saunders, Richard Lang, e. 1770.  
 Elders Ward, Gardner, Saunders, Lang, Benjamin Punchard, Ebenezer Warren, e. 1771.  
 Elder Ward, Benjamin Cox, John Cloutman, Abijah Estes, Hubertus Mattoon, e. 1772.  
 Elders Ward, Cloutman, Estes, Mattoon, e. 1773.  
 Elders Ward, Mattoon, Cloutman, Lang,<sup>1</sup> Samuel Punchard, e. 1774.  
 No election held in 1775.  
 Elders Ward, Cloutman, Mattoon, Joseph Hiller, Samuel Jones, e. 1776.  
 No elections held 1777-1779.  
 Elders Ward, Cloutman, Jones, Hiller, e. 1780.  
 No election held in 1781.  
 Elders Ward, Hiller, Jonathan Treland, Hubert Oliver, William Safford, e. 1782.  
 No elections held 1783-1785.  
 Elders Jones, Safford, e. 1786. Jones hereafter held this office until his death in 1797; Safford is mentioned as an elder in 1803.  
 Dan Farrington, e. 1797.  
 Hubertus Mattoon, m. as elder, 1800.

Deacons:	James Ruck	(m. 1744; ruling elder 1769; d. 1774)
	Timothy Pickering	(m. 1745; m. 1765 as having demitted his office; suspended from membership 1774)
	Jacob Ashton	(e. 1759; ruling elder 1769; m. 1770)
	Benjamin Ropes	(e. 1765; ruling elder 1769-1770; dism. to Salem's South Church 1775; m. 1781)
	Miles Ward	(e. 1774; ruling elder 1770-1782; m. 1786)
	Hubertus Mattoon	(e. 1774; ruling elder 1772-1800)
	James Gould	(m. 1783-1788)
	Benjamin Punchard	(e. 1786; ruling elder 1771)
	Joseph Ross	(e. 1786; re-e. 1795; d. 1818)

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1. Lang was dismissed to Salem's South Church in 1775 and is mentioned there in 1805.



John Adams	(e. 1795; d. 1837)
William Safford	(m. 1804; d. 1847)
Nehemiah Adams	(e. 1804; d. 1840)

There are no church records antedating 1743;<sup>1</sup> the extant records are owned and held by the church unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Tabernacle Church Records 1. 1743 to 1833."  
(Flyleaf: "Book of Records of the First Church [sic] in Salem. Begun February y<sup>e</sup> 20th 1743.")

CR I CLERK - "Journal of the proceedings of the Tabernacle Church in Salem begun Feby 20th 1804 Kept by John Punchard Scribe." Church clerk's records, 1804-1814.

CR II - "Tabernacle Church Records 2. From 1833 to 1863."

CR II DUP - Church Records, 1833-1834.

CR III - "Tabernacle Church Records 3." From 1864 to 1898."

CR IV - "Tabernacle Church Records 4. From 1899 to ."  
1899-1919.

VS I - "General Record." Admissions (incomplete), 1756-1824; other vital statistics, 1819-1824. Two MS copies.

VS II - "Record of Admissions, Dismissions, &c of Members of the Tabernacle Church; Records of S. Worcester, D.D. and Rev. E. Cornelius." Vital statistics (incomplete), 1770-1950.

VS BAP PUB - James A. Emmerton, "Salem Baptisms," EIHC, XXII (1885), 177-192, 241-256, XXIII (1886), 1-16, 81-96, 161-184, 241-280. Alphabetical listing of persons baptized in all Salem churches during the 18th century.

VS III - Baptismal and Death Records, 1803-1815.

VS IV - "Record of Baptisms." 1803-1818.

VS V - "Record of Deaths." 1816-1818.

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1. A lack reported as early as 1800. See SALEM, Third Church, CR I, n.p.



VS VI - "Tabernacle Church List of Members (1822-1919 only.)"

VS VII - "Tabernacle Church List of Members." 1859-1962.

VS VIII - "Church and Parish List." 1861-1871. Owned and held by Essex Institute, Salem.

VS IX - "List of Church Members on and after 1 January 1874." 1874-1877.

VS X - "Tabernacle Church List of Members." 1884.

PROP I - Proprietors Records, 1778-1795.

PROP II - "Records of the Proprietors of the Tabernacle From 1795 to ." 1795-1850.

SR III - "Records. Tabernacle Society." Proprietors/ Society records, 1851-1885.

SR IV - "Records. Tabernacle Society." 1886-1921.

S VS I - "A List of the Tabernacle Society, Salem. Jan. 1805."

S VS II - "Census of the Tabernacle Society for 1819."

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1812-1878, 1846-1858 (both owned and held by the Essex Institute); Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1810-1831, 1813-1817, 1818-1875 (owned and held by the Essex Institute), 1876-1908, 1880-1907, receipt book 1804-1818; Society Standing Committee Records, 1833-1841, 1841-1893, 1894-1917; Pew Deeds, 1855-1906; Proprietors Rate Book, 1813-1817.

While it is not possible to cite here the wealth of published material on the history of Tabernacle Church, attention is called to three MSS owned and held by the church: "A Rehearsal of the Settlement and State of the Tabernacle Church in Salem, addressed to the Assistants and Brethren composing the Conference, Opened July 28th AD. 1801," by Joshua Spaulding; "Declaratory Articles. adopted by the Tabernacle Church, Jan. 1805," by Samuel Worcester; "Memoir of the Tabernacle Church, in Salem . . . 1833," by John Punchard.



SALEM, North (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on July 19, 1772. The Proprietors of the North Meeting House, organized earlier the same year, received incorporation in 1802. In 1923, the church and its parish were absorbed by the First Church of Salem.

Minister: Thomas Barnard, D.D. (ord. 1773; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: Elder John Nutting<sup>1</sup> (e. 1772; d. 1790)  
 Deacon Joshua Ward<sup>2</sup> (e. 1772; d. 1779)  
 Dr. Edward A. Holyoke (e. 1783; d. 1829)  
 Samuel Holman (e. 1793; d. 1825)  
 [Jacob Aston (e. 1826; d. 1829)]<sup>3</sup>

Deacons: James Gould (e. 1772; dism. 1783)  
 Samuel Holman (e. 1772; d. 1825)<sup>4</sup>  
 Jacob Sanderson (e. 1785; d. 1810)

The records are owned and held by the First Church of Salem, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Records of the first Church in Salem. Copied by Thomas Barnard Pastor of sd Church. NB. The Records of sd Church from AD 1629 to AD 1660 are probably now utterly lost, as may appear from the Church Votes Page [blank] excepting the Chh Covenant in the following Page."

This is the volume listed under SALEM, First Congregational Society, as "CR II COPY BARNARD." Owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem.

The first part of the book contains Barnard's copy of First church records, 1629, 1636, 1660-1772. (b) The second part consists in records kept by lay officers of the North Church of Salem, 1772-1773; (c) the third part contains records of the North Church kept by the Rev. Thomas Barnard, Jr., 1773-1813.

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1. For thirty-five years previous, a ruling elder of the First Church of Salem.

2. For twenty years previous, a deacon of the First Church of Salem.

3. The last ruling elder employed by the church.

4. Holman filled both the deacon's role and that of ruling elder from 1793 until his death in 1825.



CR II - "Records North Church Salem." 1814-1923.

VS BAP PUB - James A. Emmerton, "Salem Baptisms," EIHC, XXII (1885), 177-192, 241-256, XXIII (1886), 1-16, 81-96, 161-184, 241-280. Alphabetical listing of persons baptized in all Salem churches during the 18th century.

VS I - "Covenant North Church Salem." Copy of covenants, members signatures, 1815-1923.

VS II - "Baptisms." 1815-1924; also contains bills of mortality, 1855-1924.

VS III - "Record of Marriages by Thomas Barnard Pastor of the North Church in Salem." 1773-1886.

VS IV - "Record of Marriages in the North Society, or by, E. B. Willson, Pastor of the Society." 1887-1923.

VS IV DUP - "Record of Marriages." 1881-1895.

PROP I - "Records North Society." Proprietors records, 1773-1836.

PROP II - Proprietors Records, 1836-1923.

PROP VS - Proprietors/Society Lists, 1816 and 1888-1892.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1786-1808, 1805-1810, 1815-1902, 1815-1823, 1815-1820, 1846-1871; Pew Tax Accounts, 1793-1801, 1796-1798, 1801-1802, 1804-1832, 1810-1826, 1813-1826, 1837-1843, 1872-1895; Meeting House Building Fund Subscription List, 1834-1836.

SALEM, South (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 14, 1775 by persons separating from the Third (now Tabernacle) Church of Salem. The church of 1775, however, by virtue of the advice of an ex parte council styled itself the "Third Church," and continued to claim that title until the close of the 19th

century. The Proprietors of the New South Meeting House received incorporation in 1805, and were reincorporated as the Proprietors of the South Church in Salem in 1838. In 1924, the 1775 church merged with Salem's Tabernacle Church, under the name of the latter body.

Ministers: Daniel Hopkins, D.D. (sett. 1775; ord. 1778;  
d. 1814)  
Brown Emerson (ord. 1805; d. 1872)

Ruling elders: Benjamin Goodhue (e. 1776; d. 1783)  
Deacon Benjamin Ropes (e. 1778; m. 1781)  
Deacon Richard Lang (e. 1783; m. 1805)  
Edward Norris (e. 1786)  
Nathaniel Batchelder (e. 1796 as both  
ruling elder and  
deacon; m. 1805)

Deacons: Deacon and ruling elder  
Benjamin Ropes (e. deacon Tabernacle  
Church 1765; dism. to  
South Church 1775; e.  
confirmed by South  
Church 1776; elev. to  
ruling elder 1778;  
m. 1781)  
Ruling elder Richard Lang (e. ruling elder Taber-  
nacle Church 1770;  
dism. to South Church  
1775; e. deacon 1776;  
elev. to ruling elder  
1783; m. 1805)  
Nathaniel Batchelder (e. 1796 as both ruling  
elder and deacon;  
m. 1805)

The records are owned and held by Tabernacle Church, Salem, unless otherwise indicated.

CR I - "Records of the 3d Chh of Christ in Salem 1775."  
1775-1822.

VS BAP PUB - James A. Emmerton, "Salem Baptisms," EIHC,  
XXII (1885), 177-192, 241-256, XXIII (1886), 1-16, 81-96,  
161-184, 241-280. Alphabetical listing of persons baptized  
in all Salem churches during the 18th century.



VS MAR PUB - John J. Latting, "Marriages in Salem by Rev. Daniel Hopkins, D.D., 1779-1814," EIHC, XIX (1882), 116-125.

CR II - "Continuation of the Records of the Third Church of Christ in Salem, Mass. (viz) from March 10th AD. 1823 to December 25th A.D. 1838."

CR III - "Continuation of the Records of the Third Church of Christ in Salem, Massachusetts; viz. from January 1st. A.D. 1839, to December 27th, A.D. 1864." 1839-1874.

CR IV - "Records of the 'Third Congregational Church of Christ in Salem, Mass.' continued." 1875-1885.

CR V - "Records. Records of the Third Congregational Church in Salem, Mass." 1885-1906.

VS - "South Church Salem 1899." Vital statistics (incomplete), 1825-1924.

PROP I - "Book belonging to the Proprietors of the South Meeting House & Lands in Salem." 1774-1805.

PROP II - Proprietors Records, 1802-1882.

PROP III - "Proprietors Records. South Church, Salem. 1883." 1883-1924.

Miscellaneous records: Proprietors Treasurer's Accounts, 1891-1902; Pew Accounts, 1790-1804 (owned and held by Essex Institute, Salem), 1805-1858; Tax Delinquents List, 1797-1805 (owned and held by Essex Institute).

SALEM, Branch or Howard Street Church (C/P/C), extinct.

The Branch Church was gathered on Dec. 29, 1803, by persons who had left Salem's Tabernacle Church when Rev. Joshua Spaulding was dismissed from his pastorate there. From 1815 to 1828, the church was statedly Presbyterian, receiving incorporation as such in 1824. In 1828, it returned to Congregational principles, was reincorporated and its name



changed to the Howard Street Church. The Branch Society had been incorporated in 1805.

The last settled minister left in 1864, and the church buildings and lands were auctioned off in 1867.

Minister: Joshua Spaulding (inst. 1805; res. 1814; d. 1825)

Ruling elders: no record of any.

Deacons: Daniel Farrington (m. 1803; rem. 1812; d. 1813)<sup>1</sup>  
 Thomas Lamson (m. as Farrington's "co-deacon")  
 Israel Freeman (appointed deacon to oversee the large Negro membership of the church by Rev. Spaulding)

The bulk of the church's records dropped from sight ca. 1867; the extant records are owned and held by Essex Institute, Salem.

VS I - "Branch Church Vital Records. 1821-1832." (Fly-leaf: "The Register of the Branch Church and of the First Presbyterian Church in Salem, Massachusetts.") Admissions, 1803-1832; baptisms, 1821-1832.

VS II - "Record of Families." 1803-1832.

PROP I - "Branch or Howard St. Church Salem 1805-48." Proprietors records, 1805-1848.

See also Covenant of the Branch Church in Salem (Salem, 1804 ?); Joshua Spaulding, The House of God: A Sermon Delivered at the Opening of the Branch Church in Salem: February 6, A.D. 1805 (Salem, 1805); Covenant and Rules and Regulations of the Howard Street Church in Salem (Salem, 1830); Result of an Ecclesiastical Council Convened in the Vestry of the Howard St. Church, Salem, on Wednesday, July 27, 1831 (Boston, 1831); A Short Correspondence between The Howard Street Church and an Aggrieved Member (Salem, 1835); Covenant, Rules and Regulations of The Howard Street Church, in Salem, with a Catalogue of Its Members in May,

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1. Farrington conducted occasional services for the church from 1803 to 1805, and is sometimes designated "senior elder."



1844 (Andover, 1844); The Result of an Ecclesiastical Council, Convened at Salem, Massachusetts, December 4, 1849 (Salem, 1850 and Boston, 1850); C. C. Beaman, "The Branch or Howard St. Church," EIHC, III (1861), 272-283; C. C. Beaman, "The Closing History of the Branch or Howard Street Church in Salem," EIHC, XI (1872), 243-248; Irving K. Annable, "Historical Notes of the Crombie Street Congregational Church, Salem, Massachusetts," EIHC, LXXVII (1941), 203-217.

SALEM, Bass River, Church (see Beverly, First Parish).

SALEM, Confederate Society, Church and Parish (see Salem, First and Salem, Tabernacle).

SALEM, East Church and Parish/Society (see Salem, Second).

SALEM, Farms (see Danvers).

SALEM, First Church and Society (see Salem, First and Salem, Tabernacle).

SALEM, Howard Street Church (see Salem, Branch Church).

SALEM, Middle Precinct and Parish (see Peabody, South).

SALEM, North Side of the Ferry (see Beverly, First Parish).

SALEM, Third Church (see Salem, Tabernacle and Salem, South).

SALEM, Third Church (see Peabody, South).



SALEM AND BEVERLY, Precinct (see Beverly, Second).

SALEM VILLAGE, Church and First Parish (see Danvers).

SALISBURY, First (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1638. A second center of population eventually developed in the western part of the town, so that in 1714 the town voted to support two meetinghouses (each with its own minister) while maintaining a single parish. The 1638 church became known as the "First (or East) Church in Salisbury," while the "Second Church" was that gathered in 1718 in what is now the Rocky Hill section of Amesbury.<sup>1</sup>

In 1787, the ministers of both churches pressed the town for adjustments in their salaries, the currency being greatly depreciated at this time. In 1790, the town voted to dismiss the First Church pastor, Edmund Noyes, and proceeded (quite unsuccessfully) to invite candidates to fill his place. Noyes evidently refused to recognize his dismissal, and continued to minister at Salisbury until his death in 1809.

By 1802, Methodism had become so dominant in the First Church area that the church voted to allow the use of the meetinghouse to the Methodists half of the time. In 1807 this was changed to allow the Methodists full-time use of the building. Finally, in 1833, the Congregationalists sold the church properties to the Methodists, and as many as could in<sup>2</sup> conscience do so, became members of the Methodist church.

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1. The Rocky Hill area became part of Amesbury in 1886.

2. Those unwilling to become Methodists affiliated with Congregational churches in Newburyport.



The parish, known as the First or East Parish of Salisbury, had been incorporated in 1793; it continued through the change of denominations, and operates today under Methodist auspices.

Ministers:	William Worcester	(sett. 1639; d. 1662)
	John Wheelwright	(inst. 1662; d. 1679)
	James Alling	(ord. 1687; d. 1695/96)
	Caleb Cushing	(ord. 1698; d. 1752)
	Edmund Noyes	(ord. 1751; diss. by town 1790; d. 1809)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Henry Brown	(m. 1688-1695)
	Capt. William Buswell	(m. 1691)
	Henry True	(e. 1700)
	Lt. Nathaniel Brown	(e. 1700)
	William Bradbury	(e. 1721)
	Jabez True	(e. 1721; m. 1728)
	Moses Merrill	(e. 1749; m. 1752)
	Nathaniel Fitts	(e. 1749; m. 1757)
	----- Buswell	(m. 1757)
	Samuel True	(m. 1771-1803)
	----- Jackman	(m. 1771)

The records antedating 1687 were reported lost in 1865;<sup>1</sup> the extant records are scattered.

CR I - "Salisbury, Mass. Church Records 1687-1752."  
Owned and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society,  
Boston.

CR I PUB - William P. Upham, "Records of The First Church  
at Salisbury, Mass., 1687-1754," EIHC, XVI (1879), 55-68,  
150-160, 203-212, 290-301. Some church votes, but concen-  
trates on vital statistics.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1752-1833.

VS II PUB - William P. Upham, "Records of the First Church  
at Salisbury, Mass., 1752-1805," EIHC, XXI (1884), 131-151.  
Vital statistics only.

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1. See Essex North Association, Contributions to the Eccle-  
siastical History of Essex County, Mass. (Boston, 1865),  
p. 224.



PR I - Parish Records, 1793-1888. Owned and held by the East Parish of Salisbury (Methodist).

See also David W. Hoyt, The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, 4 vols. (Providence, R.I., 1897, 1902, 1916, 1919), especially II, p. 418, where he claims to incorporate the Upham publications in his own work, and I, p. 24, the fragment of the Upham material that actually did appear in Hoyt.

SALISBURY, East Church and Parish (see Salisbury, First).

SALISBURY, Second Church and Parish (see Amesbury, Rocky Hill).

SALISBURY, West Church and Parish (see Amesbury, Rocky Hill).

SANCHACANTACKET (or Sanchekantacket or Sengekontaket) Indian Congregational Church (see Oak Bluffs, Sanchacantacket Indian Congregational Church).

SANDISFIELD, First (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 24, 1756. After the destruction of the church building (and records) by fire ca. 1909, the church became inactive and finally extinct.

Ministers:	Cornelius Jones	(ord. 1756; rem. 1761; d. 1803)
	Eleazar Storrs	(ord. 1766; disp. 1797; d. 1810)
	Levi White	(ord. 1798; disp. 1832; d. 1836)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the fragmentary nature of the records, only a few names have survived. It is not known if Deacon Samuel Smith (admitted to membership from Hawley in 1759) or Deacon Samuel Smith (admitted from Springfield's Fourth Church in 1766) served as deacons at Sandisfield.

Deacon Phineas Kingsberry	(adm. from Hartland 1778; m. as deacon here 1790)
Capt. Lemuel Smith	(e. 1798)
----- Thomas	(m. 1801)
----- Brown	(m. 1801) <sup>1</sup>

The original records were apparently destroyed in the fire already mentioned; a copy made before the fire survives.

CR I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Sandisfield, Mass. Cong. Church." Votes for 1756, 1798-1801, and 1816-1900; vital statistics are more complete.

See also A History of the County of Berkshire, Massachusetts; in Two Parts (Pittsfield, 1829), pp. 298-304; Town of Sandisfield, Sandisfield Bicentennial 1762-1962 (Winsted, Ct., 1962).

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1. A Mr. Dudley K----- was elected to the Sandisfield diaconate in 1801, but a tear in the original records (since lost) prevents our knowing his last name.



## SANDWICH, Federated Church (C &amp; U).

The church was gathered in 1638. Early in the 19th century, the First Parish opted for Unitarianism, and the Trinitarian church members withdrew. More recently, the two churches have federated into a single body.

Ministers:	William Leverich	(sett. ca. 1638; rem. 1654; d. 1677)
	John Smith	(ord. 1675; disp. 1688; d. between 1710 and 1719)
	Rowland Cotton	(ord. 1694; d. 1722)
	Benjamin Fessenden	(ord. 1722; d. 1746)
	Abraham Williams	(ord. 1749; d. 1784)
	Jonathan Burr	(ord. 1787; disp. by First Parish 1811 but ministered to the Trinitarian church members until disp. 1817; d. 1842)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: none known prior to 1700.

Thomas Tobey	(m. 1700; d. 1710)
Samuel Prince	(e. 1700)
Elisha Bourne	(e. 1700)
Timothy Bourne	(e. 1710; d. 1750)
Israel Tupper	(m. 1730)
Cornelius Tobey	(e. 1740; excommunicated 1774; d. 1792)
Elijah Perry	(e. 1740; d. 1773)
Thomas Smith	(e. 1758; excommunicated 1774)
Ephraim Ellis	(e. 1774; d. 1783)
Cornelius Tobey, Jr.	(e. 1774; d. 1778)
Thomas Bassett	(e. 1774; excommunicated 1796; d. 1809)
Sylvanus Nye	(e. 1779; d. after 1806)
Daniel Perry	(e. 1796; d. after 1808)
Lemuel Freeman	(e. 1796)

The records antedating 1694 were reported lost in 1802;<sup>1</sup> the extant records are scattered.

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1. See Wendell Davis, "Description of Sandwich, in the County of Barnstable," MHSC, 1st Ser., VIII (1802; rep. 1846), 119-126.



CR I - "First Church Records, Sandwich, Mass." 1695-1830. Owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. Also a complete photostat copy of CR I, owned and held by the Society.

VS I - John G. Locke, "Records of Marriages, Baptisms and Deaths, Copied from the Diary of the Rev. Benjamin Fessenden, who was ordained at Sandwich, Mass., Sept. 12, 1722," NEHGR, XII (1858), 311-312. Marriages, 1722-1727; baptisms, 1722-1723; deaths, 1723-1734.

VS II - John G. Locke, "Extracts from Rev. Benjamin Fessenden's Manuscript," NEHGR, XIII (1859), 30-33. Sandwich families, 1730.

VS III - Florence C. Howes, "Dismissions from the First Church of Sandwich, Mass., 1749-1818," NEHGR, CXI (1957), 29-30.

PR I - "1786." Parish records, 1786-1832. Owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

The Unitarian side of the church owns and holds the following items:

CR (U) I - "Records of the First Church of Christ in Sandwich, 1812." 1812-1908.

CR (U) II - "First Parish Church Records." 1853-1955.

PR (U) I - Parish Records, 1787-1890.

The Congregational side of the church owns and holds the following items:

CR (C) I - "Records of the First or Ancient Congregational Church in Sandwich." Memoranda, 1638-1813; records, 1813-1853.

CR (C) II - "Vol. 2 of The Records of the First or Ancient Congregational Church of Sandwich, now called the 'Calvinistic Cong. Church.'" 1854-1953.

SR (C) I - "Calvinistic Congregational Society Records." Memoranda, 1638-1813; records, 1813-1871.

See also Gideon Hawley, "Biographical and Topographical Anecdotes respecting Sandwich and Marshpee, Jan. 1794,"



MHSC, 1st Ser., III (1794; rep. 1810), 188-193; Wendell Davis, op. cit.; Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod, 2 vols. (Boston, 1860-1862); Frederick Freeman, articles in Yarmouth Register, May 12, 1877 to Aug. 11, 1877; Ambrose E. Pratt, Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of Sandwich and Bourne, at Sandwich, Massachusetts, September 2, 1889 (Falmouth, 1890).

SANDWICH, Second (C), extinct.

This New Light church was gathered at Scusset in Sandwich on March 12, 1734/35. After its minister's removal in 1745, its members drifted back to Sandwich's First Church or affiliated with the church at Wareham.

Minister: Francis Wooster, Jr. (ord. 1735; dism. 1745; d. 1783)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Jirah Swift (e. 1735)  
 Eliakim Tupper (e. 1735; dism. 1736 ?)  
 ----- Haskel (adm. to membership 1739)  
 Josiah Swift (e. 1736)

The only known records are those owned and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society as part of the Davis Papers.

CR I - Church Records, entitled "the chh record to be cept." Eight pages, covering 1734/35-1745; largely vital statistics, a few votes. In box, "Davis Papers II, 1681-1747."

Miscellaneous records: in the Davis Papers, there is also a result of the ecclesiastical council which recommended Wooster's dismissal from the pastorate in 1745; a third item, catalogued under Wooster's name by the Society Library, contains the result of the ecclesiastical council of March 12, 1734/35 which first voted to embody this church.

SANDWICH, Second Precinct (see Bourne).

SANDWICH, Herring Pond(s) Indian Congregational Church  
(see Bourne, Herring Pond(s) Indian Congregational Church).

SANDWICH, Pocasset or Pokesit Praying Town and Church (see  
Bourne, Pocasset or Pokesit Praying Town and Church).

SANDY BAY, Church (see Rockport).

SANDY HILL Church (see Amesbury, First Church).

SAUGUS, First Congregational Parish (U-U).  
First Congregational Church (C).

The exact date of the church's gathering is uncertain, but  
it can be said that as early as the fall of 1737 or as late  
as Dec. 5, 1739, it was organized as the Third Church in



Lynn. The Proprietors of the Meeting House had been organized in 1736. A petition to be set off as a distinct parish, filed Oct. 25, 1737, was denied by the General Court, but permission was granted to the petitioners to hold worship apart from the First and Second Churches. Not until 1749 was the forming of an independent parish authorized. Lynn's ancient church had been gathered in 1632, and its Second Church in 1720. In 1782, the Second Parish was incorporated as the town of Lynnfield, and the Third Church and Parish were designated the Second or West in Lynn. In 1815, the latter area became the town of Saugus, and the parish and church received the title, "First." From 1817 to 1836, lack of financial support prompted the parish to vote freedom of the pulpit to any minister who would preach without cost to the parish. Unitarian, and then Universalist preaching was heard, so that in 1832 the orthodox contingent withdrew to form its own church and society (although laying claim to the founding date 1732 down to the present day). The First Parish and its church, by then distinctively Universalist, underwent several reorganizations in 1837, 1861, and 1876. More recently, it has merged with a Unitarian church of nineteenth century origin.

Ministers:	Edward Cheever	(ord. 1739; disp. 1747; d. 1794)
	Joseph Roby	(ord. 1752; d. 1803)
	William Frothingham	(ord. 1804; disp. 1817; d. 1852)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Haven	(m. 1739-1745)
	Thomas Douglas	(m. 1739-1746; res. 1750 ?)
	Abijah Cheever	(m. 1754-1775)
	Benjamin Willey	(m. 1754)
	Francis Smith	(m. 1771-1783)
	Ephraim Rhoads	(m. 1780)

The early records of the church have dropped from sight since 1887, when they were quoted by the author of a newspaper feature article.<sup>1</sup> The only extant records are owned

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1. Benjamin N. Johnson, "1737-1887 Third Church in Lynn. Historical Address Delivered by Benjamin N. Johnson. Beginning of Church Worship in 'the West End of Lynn.' 150th Anniversary Observance at Saugus, Oct. 13, 1887." Newspaper unidentified; clipping pasted into PR III.



and held by the First Congregational Parish,<sup>1</sup> unless otherwise noted.

CR - Church Records, 1837-1952 (lacunae, 1838-1872).

PROP/PR I - "1738/9 The Society Book of Records beginning Lynn March 21st 1738/9 Belonging to the New Meeting House att the Westerly part of Lynn." Records of the Proprietors (1738/9-1749) and parish (1750-1829). Owned and held by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston.

PR II - MISSING, Parish Records, 1829-1884.

PR III - "Records of the First Congregational Parish and Society in Saugus Book No 3." 1884-1918.

See also Alonzo Lewis, The History of Lynn, including Nahant (2nd ed., Boston, 1844); Alonzo Lewis and James R. Newhall, History of Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts: including Lynnfield, Saugus, Swampscott, and Nahant, 1629-1864 (Lynn, 1890); Horace H. Atherton, Jr., History of Saugus, Massachusetts (Salem, 1916).

The Congregational Library, Boston, owns a mimeographed copy of Mildred R. Shrout's "A History of The First Congregational Church of Saugus, Massachusetts" (1953).

SCITUATE, First Parish Church (U).  
Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered on Jan. 8, 1634/35 (Old Style) by persons formerly members of the church gathered at Southwark, England, by Henry Jacob (see BARNSTABLE, West). In 1639, the minister, John Lothrop, and an undetermined number of Scituate church members removed to Barnstable, apparently organizing a new church in that place.

There is no record to indicate whether the remnant at Scituate felt it necessary also to reorganize.

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1. The records of the First Congregational Church go back only to 1906.



In 1825, the orthodox of the Church and Parish in Scituate withdrew to form their own church and society. Today, both churches lay claim to the founding date, 1634/35.

Ministers:	John Lothrop	(sett. 1623-1634 Southwark; ord. or inst. 1634/35 Scitu- ate; rem. 1639; d. 1653)
	Peter Saxton	(sett. 1640; rem. 1641; d. 1651)
	Charles Chauncy	(sett. 1641; rem. to presi- dency of Harvard College 1654; d. 1671)
	Henry Dunster	(sett. 1654; d. 1659)
	Nicholas Baker	(ord. 1660; d. 1678)
	Jeremiah Cushing	(ord. 1691; d. 1705/06)
	Nathaniel Pitcher	(ord. 1707; d. 1723)
	Shearjashub Bourne	(ord. 1724; disp. 1761; d. 1768)
	Ebenezer Grosvenor	(ord. 1763; disp. 1780; d. 1788)
	Ebenezer Dawes	(ord. 1787; d. 1791)
	Nehemiah Thomas	(ord. 1792; d. 1831)

Ruling elders: Nathaniel Tilden (e. 1634/35; d. 1641)<sup>1</sup>

Deacons:	Henry Cobb	(e. and ord. 1635; rem. 1639; d. 1679)
	Edward Foster	(ord. 1637/38; d. 1644)
	Thomas Besbetch	(ord. 1637/38; d. <u>ca.</u> 1656) <sup>2</sup>
	John (?) Cooper	(e. 1639 ?; rem. 1639) <sup>3</sup>
	Richard Garrett	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1640-1660; d. <u>ca.</u> 1662)

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1. Samuel Deane, History of Scituate, Massachusetts, from Its Settlement to 1831 (Boston, 1831; rep. Scituate, 1899), p. 90, also lists as a Scituate ruling elder Henry Cobb (the deacon) who was among those who removed to Barnstable in 1639. As far as can be determined, Cobb was not elevated to the eldership until 1670; until then, he served at Barnstable as he had at Scituate, as a deacon.

2. Sometimes given as "Bedbedge."

3. Deane, loc. cit., also mentions as Scituate deacons Richard Sealls and William Gilson, but cites no authority for adding these names to the diaconate.



Thomas Clap	(m. 1647; d. <u>ca.</u> 1684)
Benjamin Pierce	(m. 1709-1725)
Capt. David Jacobs	(m. 1709-1711)
Hatherley Foster	
Samuel Turner	(e. 1729)
Samuel Stodder	(e. 1732/33)
Thomas Pierce	(e. 1735)
Elisha Foster	
Jonathan Merritt, Jr.	(e. 1743; res. 1768)
Elisha Pierce	(e. 1743)
Ezra Pitcher	(e. 1754; res. and rem. 1764; d. 1771)
Joseph Bailey	(e. 1764)
Samuel Jenkins	(e. 1768; d. 1805)
Israel Vinal, Esq.	(e. 1779)
Daniel Jenkins	(e. 1779; d. 1812)
Israel Litchfield	(e. 1779; m. 1833)
Seth Merritt	(m. 1792; d. <u>ca.</u> 1833)

Unless otherwise noted, the records are owned and held by the First Parish Church.<sup>1</sup>

CR I - Amos Otis, "Scituate and Barnstable Church Records," NEHGR, IX (1855), 279-287, notice of 1634/35 gathering, vital statistics, 1635-1653; X (1856), 37-43, church records, 1634-1653. A copy of the 1769 transcript made by Ezra Stiles from John Lothrop's Journal, then extant.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1639-1707.

CR III - "The Church Book, 1707." 1707-1791.

CR III PUB - George E. Bowman, "Records of the First Church of Scituate, Mass.," MD, X (1908), 90-96, 175-180, 225-230, XI (1909), 44-46, 138-142, 207-209.

CR III COPY - Church Records, 1707-1791. Typescript copy, ca. 1930, owned and held by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

CR IV - "Scituate. N. Thomas. Church Records. 1792." 1792-1831.

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1. The records held by the Congregational Church begin in 1825.



CR V - "Records of the First Church of Christ in Scituate, Mass. Vol. 3." 1831-1884.

PR I - "The First Book of reckords for the northerly Soseiaty in Scittuate." Parish records, 1695-1761.

PR I COPY - Typescript copy, undated.

PR II - Parish Records, 1761-1858.

PR III - Parish Records, 1854-1954.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1786-1871; Minister Fund Treasurer's Accounts, 1803-1872, 1872-1937.

See also Church Manual: or the History, Standing Rules, Discipline, Articles of Faith, and Covenant, of the First (Trinitarian Congregational) Church of Christ in Scituate, Mass. (Boston, 1844); An Ecclesiastical Controversy: Containing the Correspondence between Hon. John B. Turner, Member of the First Parish, and Rev. Daniel Wight, Jr., Pastor of the First Church in Scituate, Mass. (Boston, 1845); A Second Series of Letters concerning the History of the First Parish in Scituate (Boston, 1845); Review of a Pamphlet Entitled 'A Second Series of Letters . . .' (Boston, 1845); Document of the Pilgrim Conference of Churches, Containing an Historical Sketch of the First Trinitarian Congregational Church of Christ, in Scituate, Mass. 1853. Number 3 (Boston, 1853); Manual of the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Scituate, Mass. (North Scituate, 1915).

SCITUATE (see Barnstable).

SCITUATE, South Church and Parish (see Norwell).



SECONCHGUT (Seconkgut, Seconkqut) Praying Town [and Church ?]  
(see Chilmark, Seconchgut Praying Town [and Church ?]).

[SEEKONK (C).]

The church was gathered in 1643, in that part of Rehoboth which was set off in 1812 as the town of Seekonk. In 1862 the area served by this church was ceded to Rhode Island, becoming part of the town of East Providence. The church thus falls outside the geographical limits of this present study.

This church continues today as the Newman Congregational Church of Rumford, R.I. While its early records have long been lost, quite a few details can be gleaned from Leonard Bliss, Jr., The History of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts (Boston, 1836); Sylvanus C. Newman, Rehoboth in the Past: An Historical Oration Delivered on the Fourth of July 1860 (Pawtucket, 1860); D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Bristol County, Massachusetts (Philadelphia, 1883), pp. 463-506; and Richard L. Bowen, Early Rehoboth: Documented Historical Studies of Families and Events in This Plymouth Colony Township, 4 vols. (Rehoboth, 1945-1950).

SHARON, Unitarian Church (U).  
Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered on May 20, 1741 in the Second Precinct of Stoughton (which had been incorporated the previous year). In 1765 the area was renamed Stoughtonham, and in 1783 it became the town of Sharon. In 1821, the orthodox withdrew from the church, forming the Christian Church and Society. The liberal wing saw to the organization of the First Congregational Parish in the same year. The two churches continue



as Congregational and Unitarian bodies today, both claiming the eighteenth century date.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers: Philip Curtis (ord. 1741/42; d. 1797)  
Jonathan Whitaker (ord. 1799; dism. 1816;  
d. 1835)

Ruling elder: Deacon Joseph Hewins ?<sup>2</sup>

Deacons: Benjamin Savell (m. 1744; d. 1775)  
Jeremiah Fuller (m. 1744; d. 1772)  
----- Bird (m. 1769; d. 1787)  
Jacob Hewins (m. 1781)  
----- Esty (d. 1781)  
Joseph Hewins (d. 1786)  
Oliver Everett (m. 1788-1794)  
----- Hill (d. 1792)

The church records antedating 1825 were destroyed by fire in that year, except for a volume of vital statistics and miscellaneous entries.<sup>3</sup> The latter item has since dropped from sight, but not before a portion was published (see below). The parish records reported extant in 1903<sup>4</sup> and the church records from 1825 were not made available.

VS I - MISSING, Church Vital Statistics, 1741/42-1797.<sup>5</sup>

1. The Unitarian church claims the date 1737, anticipating the actual gathering of the church by five years.

2. George C. Cooke, Origin and Early History of the First Parish, Sharon, Massachusetts (Boston, 1903), suggests that Deacon Joseph Hewins of Stoughton, elected ruling elder at Stoughton in 1720 and (having made no reply) re-elected to that office at Stoughton in 1723, may have served as an elder at Sharon during the latter church's infancy.

The only mention of this Stoughton lay officer in the Sharon records appears in VS I PUB, p. 13, under date of Feb. 25, 1755: "Elder Hewins was buried."

3. Cooke, op. cit., pp. 8-9.

4. Used by Cooke, but reported by Cushman, op. cit., as beginning no earlier than 1882.

5. Reported by Cooke in 1903 as held by Charles C. Curtis of Sharon.



VS I PUB - John C. Phillips (ed.), "The Church Records of Rev. Philip Curtis of Sharon, 1742-1797," SHSP, No. 5 (Boston, 1908).<sup>1</sup>

See also Manual of the First Congregational Church, Sharon, Massachusetts, 1901 (Boston, 1901); Frieda B. Cushman's typescript "History of Our Church," 1940, owned and held by the Unitarian Church.

#### SHEFFIELD (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 22, 1735, and the First Congregational Society was organized in 1825. The society was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1917.

Ministers: Jonathan Hubbard (ord. 1735; dism. 1764;  
d. 1765)  
John Keep (ord. 1772; d. 1784)  
Ephraim Judson (inst. 1791; d. 1813)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Daniel Kellogg (e. 1735)  
Philip Callender (e. 1735; d. ca. 1753)  
Silas Kellogg (m. 1765-1770)  
Ebenezer Smith (m. 1761; d. 1795)  
Aaron Foot (e. 1792; d. 1822)  
Jonathan Hubbard (e. 1792; d. 1825)

The church records antedating 1813 were reported lost in 1901, except for vital statistics dating back to 1791.<sup>2</sup> The extant records are owned and held by the church.

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1. The published version omits all details of disciplinary action reported in VS I.

2. Neither Cooke, CR I COPY, nor present-day church officers have any knowledge of records for the years 1735-1813. We must assume, therefore, that the entry made by Emil Oberholzer, Jr., Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 351, is an error.



CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1735-1813.

CR II - "Church Record. 1813. Vol. I." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church of Christ at Sheffield.") 1798 and 1813-1855; vital statistics, 1791-1858.

CR II COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Sheffield Cong. Church." Copy made in 1901 of CR II. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

VS I - "Catalogue." Admissions, 1791-1870, compiled in the latter year; carried through 1944. Scattered baptismal records, 1794-1874.

VS II - "Record." Copy of VS I, made in 1941, with memoranda extracted from town and proprietors records on the history of the church, 1733-1775.

CR III - "Records of the Congregational Church, Sheffield, Mass. Vol. II." 1855-1897.

CR IV - "Records of the Church. Vol. 3. 1897-1917."

SR I - MISSING, Society Records, 1825-1874.

SR II - "Records - 1st Congl. Society. - Sheffield Mass." 1874-1917.

Miscellaneous records: Society/Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1885-1926.

See also Manual of the Church of Christ, (Congregational), in Sheffield, Mass. 1870 (Great Barrington, 1870); Charles J. Taylor et alii, History of Great Barrington (Berkshire) Massachusetts (Great Barrington, 1882); Manual of the First Congregational Church in Sheffield, Mass. (Great Barrington, 1917).

SHEFFIELD, North Parish (see Great Barrington).

SHEFFIELD, Second Church (see Great Barrington).

SHELBURNE, First (C).

The church was gathered in 1770, and the First Congregational Society was organized in 1827.

Ministers:	Robert Hubbard	(ord. 1773; d. 1788)
	Jesse Townsend	(ord. 1792; disp. 1797; d. 1838)
	Theophilus Packard, D.D.	(ord. 1799; d. 1855)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Samuel Fellows	(e. 1770-1774; d. 1816)
	Ebenezer Allis	(e. 1770-1774)
	Aaron Skinner	(e. 1770-1774; d. 1826)
	David Wells	(e. 1770-1774; d. 1814)
	Samuel Boyd	(e. 1799; disp. n.d. and rem.)

There are no church records antedating 1870;<sup>1</sup> the extant church records are owned and held by the church, the society records by the Shelburne Center Library.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1770-1870.

CR II - "Records of the First Congregational Church In Shelburne Mass. Commencing Sept 5th, 1870 by Reuben Nims." 1870-1938.

SR I - "Records of the first Congregational Society in the Town of Shelburne Book No 1." 1827-1870.

Miscellaneous records: Church Subscription Books, 2 vols. (one for males, one for females), 1851-1871; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1828-1871.

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1. The Manuals published in 1832 and 1887 speak of fragmentary records antedating 1870, but these have since disappeared.



See also Congregational Church in Shelburne, Mass. March 12, 1832 (Greenfield, 1832); Theophilus Packard, A Sermon Delivered on the Occasion of The Fiftieth Anniversary of The Ordination of Rev. Theophilus Packard, D.D. (Greenfield, 1849); Manual of the Congregational Church, Shelburne, Mass. November, 1873 (Greenfield, 1873); Manual of The First Congregational Church, Shelburne, Mass. 1887 (Shelburne Falls, 1887); Mrs. Walter E. Burnham et alii, History and Tradition of Shelburne, Massachusetts (Springfield, 1958).

#### SHERBORN, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on March 26, 1685, its sustaining parish having been organized in 1674.

Early in the nineteenth century, the orthodox and liberal elements separated. Constituting a majority of the church, the orthodox organized a society in 1830. The liberal wing, dominating the parish, reorganized the parish church that same year.

In 1946, the two churches, Pilgrim Congregational and the First Parish Church, federated. In 1961 the Federated Church voted to become the Community Christian Church, associating with the Congregational tradition. Shortly thereafter, the First Parish (Church) voted to resume independent services in the Unitarian tradition. The Community Christian Church voted in 1963 to revive the Pilgrim Congregational Church, and to affiliate with the United Church of Christ, leaving the First Parish Church as the continuing claimant to the 1685 date.

Ministers:	Daniel Gookin, Jr.	(ord. 1685; d. 1717/18)
	Daniel Baker	(ord. 1712; d. 1731)
	Samuel Porter	(ord. 1734; d. 1758)
	Samuel Locke, D.D.	(ord. 1759; dism. to become president of Harvard 1770; d. 1777)
	Elijah Brown	(ord. 1770; d. 1816)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Obadiah Morse	(m. 1685; d. ca. 1704)
	Benoni Learned	(m. 1705-1726)



Hopestill Lealand	(m. 1726)
----- Greenwood	(m. 1730-1731)
Jonathan Russell	(m. 1758-1775)
James Whitney	(m. 1759)
Benjamin Whitney	(m. 1773; d. 1793)
William Lealand	(m. 1775)
Jonathan Twitchel	(m. 1777; d. 1780)
John Stone	(m. 1779)
Aaron Lealand	(m. 1793-1809)
William Clarke	(m. 1793-1809)
Joseph Dowse	(m. 1802-1816)

The records are sparse for the early years, and all records are owned and held by the First Parish.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1685-1734.

CR II - "The Church Book, Begun Oct. 27, 1734." 1734-1848.

CR II BROWN - "Elijah Brown's Book, 1771." 1771-1801, with vital statistics to 1816.

CR III - "Records of the Church of the First Congregational Society in Sherborn, Mass. Vol. II." 1854-ca. 1900.

PR I - Parish Records, 1809-1834.

PR II - Parish Records, 1835-1862.

PR III - Parish Records, 1860-1888.

PR IV - Parish Records, 1889-1944.

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Account Book, 1685-1780 (new binding inscribed "Records, First Parish, Sherborn"); Parish Assessors Rate Book, 1809-1833, 1837; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1838-1873, 1873-1914; Parish Property Deed Book, 1846-1873.

See also William Biglow, History of Sherburne, Mass. (Milford, Mass., 1830).

SHERBURN(E) (see Sherborn).



SHIRLEY, First (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 25, 1762, and the First Congregational Society was organized in 1822. Church and society became extinct about the year 1890.

Minister: Phinehas Whitney (ord. 1762; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Longley	(e. 1762; d. 1792)
	Hezekiah Sawtell	(e. 1762)
	John Ivory	(e. 1777; m. 1789)
	Joseph Brown	(e. 1784; m. 1808)
	John Heald	(e. 1790)
	Josiah Willard	(m. 1798-1803) <sup>1</sup>
	----- Stone	(m. 1803) <sup>2</sup>

The meager extant records are owned and held by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

Not listed below, but worthy of note is the Diary of James Parker, 1770-1829, owned and held by the Society. See Ethel S. Bolton, "Extracts from the Diary of James Parker of Shirley, Mass.," *NEHGR*, LXIX (1915), 8-17, 117-127, 211-224, 294-308, LXX (1916), 9-24, 137-146, 210-220, 294-308.

CR I - "Church Book, begun 1762." 1762-1815.

VS I - "Deaths." 1829-1877.

VS II - "Marriages and Baptisms." 1833-1888.

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1. The entry for 1798 reads "Joseph Willard," but it would appear that this is an error for "Josiah Willard," who is mentioned in 1801 and 1803 in Parker's Diary.

2. The Deacon Samuel Lawrence mentioned in Parker's Diary in 1799 was a Groton deacon. It appears that the Deacon Rockwood mentioned as dying in 1804 was Deacon Samuel Rockwood, also of Groton.

## SHREWSBURY, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 4, 1723. The First Parish was organized in 1742, incorporated in 1743, and reorganized in 1821. The Trustees of the Funds appropriated to the support of a Minister of the Congregational Denomination in the Town of Shrewsbury received incorporation in 1801. Church and parish were incorporated as a single body in 1957.

Ministers: Job Cushing (ord. 1723; d. 1760)  
Joseph Sumner (ord. 1762; d. 1824)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Keyes, Sr. (e. 1723; res. and rem. 1742; d. 1753)  
Samuel Wheelock (e. 1723; res. 1735)  
Cyprian Keyes (e. 1735; res. and rem. 1742; d. 1802)  
Samuel Miles (e. 1743; res. 1765)  
Ezekiel Knowlton (e. 1743; d. 1774)  
Jonas Stone (e. 1765; d. 1809)  
Benjamin Maynard (e. 1765; d. 1788)  
William Knowlton (e. 1784; d. 1820)  
Benjamin Goddard (e. 1784; d. 1834)  
John Bragg (e. 1789; d. 1819)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records for the Church of Shrewsbury." 1723-1825.

CR II - "The Church Records of Shrewsbury Begun Anno 1723." Vital statistics, 1723-1824; church records, 1840-1841.

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1825-1903 (except for 1840-1841).

PR I - "Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury first precinct and first precinct Book. Bought in April in y<sup>e</sup> year 1744 by Nahum Ward Esqr and Cost one pound and Eighteen shillings and Six pence old Tenor." 1743-1825.

PR II - "Records of the Congregational Parish in the Town of Shrewsbury Second Volume March 1826 Deeds of Pews recorded towards the end of this book." 1826-1870.



PR III - Parish Records, 1871-1941.

Miscellaneous records: Pew Deeds, 1834-1879; Records of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, 1800-1915; Ministerial Fund Accounts, 1801-1916.

SHREWSBURY, North Church, Precinct and Parish (see Boylston).

SHREWSBURY, Second Precinct (see Boylston).

SHUTESBURY, Federated (C).

Gathered on Oct. 27, 1742 as the Church in Roadtown, the church's name was changed when the area became the town of Shutesbury in 1761.

The dismissal of the Tory minister in 1778 resulted in his successfully bringing suit against the town to recover his salary. Church activity declined markedly, and only one member was still alive when the church was reorganized in 1806.

The Baptist church, founded in 1780, federated with the re-organized Congregational Church in 1911.

Minister: Abraham Hill (ord. 1742; dism. 1778; d. 1788)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Aaron Smith (m. 1747-1751)  
Jonathan Burt (m. 1747-1751)

There are no records antedating the reorganization of the church and organization of its society.<sup>1</sup> The extant records are owned by the church, and deposited at the Town Hall.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1742-1806.

CR II - Church Records, 1806-1848.

CR III - "Records of the Congregational Church in Shutesbury, Commencing Mar. 1st, 1848." 1848-1880, with vital statistics to 1932.

SR I - "A Book of records belonging to the Congregational Society. In Shutesbury." 1804-1907.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1815-1873 (with memoranda of Society meetings, 1835-1873), 1880-1930.

See also The Annual Report of the Town of Shutesbury for the Year ending March 21, 1899 (n.p., 1899), which includes some data on the ecclesiastical history of the town.

SIPPICAN Parish (see Marion).

SOUTHAMPTON (C).

The Second Precinct of Northampton was incorporated in 1741, and the church was gathered here on June 8, 1743. The precinct became the town of Southampton in 1753, and the

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1. Memoranda found among the New Salem Church Records categorically state that in 1955, no trace of the Shutesbury records, 1742-1806, could be found.



church's name was duly changed. The parish dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1930.

Ministers: Jonathan Judd (ord. 1743; d. 1803)  
 Vinson Gould (ord. colleague 1801; dism. 1832;  
 d. 1841)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Waitstill Strong (e. 1743; res. 1803)<sup>1</sup>  
 John Clark (e. 1743; m. 1750)  
 Elias Lyman (e. 1766; d. 1803)  
 Samuel Edwards (e. 1766; d. 1789-1790)  
 Abner Pomroy (e. 1780)  
 Deacon Douglas King (e. 1780; res. 1801)  
 Lt. John Lyman (e. 1786; res. 1801; d. 1811)  
 Elisha Edwards (e. 1790; d. 1832)  
 Lt. Samuel Burt (e. 1801; d. 1822)  
 Capt. Roswell Strong (e. 1801; d. 1837)

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "A Record of the Church of Christ in Southampton." 1743-1832, entries somewhat scattered.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1832-1915.<sup>2</sup>

VS I - Mrs. Max Lederer, Jr., copyist, "Congregational Church Records, Southampton, Massachusetts, 1747-1937." Typescript owned and held by the Southampton Public Library. Vital statistics only.

VS II - "A Record of Marriages kept in Southampton by Vinson Gould." 1801-1807.

PR I - "Records of the First Parish in Southampton, Organized November 1st, 1831." 1831-1881.

PR II - "Records of the First Parish in Southampton, Commencing April 17, 1882." 1882-1931.

1. Another tradition has it that Strong died in 1793.

2. Currently missing, this volume was reported to be extant as recently as 1938 (see VS I, p. 154).

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1879-1938; Parish Assessors' and Treasurer's Accounts, 1832-1924; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1832-1878, 1879-1924; Parish Fund Accounts, 1886-1928.

SOUTHBORO (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on Oct. 21, 1730. The withdrawal of the orthodox in 1831 greatly weakened the First Parish and its church which nonetheless supported a settled ministry until 1842, and met intermittently until 1859. With the extinction of the church, the parish deeded its property to the orthodox, but maintained a marginal existence until 1873.

Ministers:	Nathan Stone	(ord. 1730; d. 1781)
	Samuel Sumner	(ord. 1791; disp. 1797; d. 1837)
	Jereboam Parker	(ord. 1799; disp. 1832; d. 1850)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Gideon Newton	(m. 1791)
	Edmund Chamberlain	(m. 1791; d. 1819)
	Hezekiah Fay	(m. 1795; d. 1800)
	Josiah Newton	(e. 1800; d. 1822)

The records of the church antedating 1791 could not be obtained from the heirs of Rev. Nathan Stone at the time of Sumner's settlement.<sup>1</sup> The extant records are deposited at the Selectmen's Office, Southboro Town Hall.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1730-1791.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church, Southborough. 1791-1835." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Congregational Church in Southborough. -- 1730.") 1791-1838.

PR I - Parish Records, 1832-1873.

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1. See CR I, under dates of June 15 and Aug. 5, 1791.



See also History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Embracing a Comprehensive History of the County from Its First Settlement to the Present Time, with a History and Description of Its Cities and Towns (Boston, 1879), II, pp. 284-294; D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1889), I, pp. 92-102.

SOUTHBRIDGE, Elm Street (C).

The church was gathered as the Second Church in Charlton on Sept. 16, 1801, at the same time its affiliated Second Religious Society was incorporated. In 1816 the area was made the town of Southbridge, and the names of the church and society were duly changed. The same year saw mention made in the records of Proprietors of the Ministerial Fund. The society was dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1962. The name "Elm Street Church" is of comparatively recent date.

Minister: no minister was settled here until 1816.

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Asa Walker (e. 1801; d. 1814)  
Daniel Morse (e. 1801; d. 1832)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "The Records of the second congregational Church in Charlton. Vol. I. From September 16th 1801." 1801-1844.

CR II - "The Records of the Congregational Church in Southbridge. Vol. II." 1844-1888.

CR III - "Records of the Congregational Church Southbridge, Mass. 1888." 1888-1901.

SR I - Society Records, 1816-1850. Incorrectly labeled as records of the Proprietors of the Ministerial Fund.

SR II - MISSING, Society Records, 1850-1896.

SR III - "Records of Congregational Religious Society Commencing Mch 31st 1896." 1896-1928.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1816-1864, 1877-1881, 1882-1917.

SOUTH BRIMFIELD, Church (see Holland).

SOUTH BRIMFIELD, East Parish (see Holland).

SOUTH BRIMFIELD, West Parish and Church (see Wales).

SOUTH DANVERS, South Church (see Peabody, South).

SOUTH DIGHTON (see Dighton, Peto-Baptist).



SOUTHFIELD (see New Marlboro, Southfield).

# SOUTH HADLEY (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 3, 1733 as the Second Church in Hadley. The Second Precinct did not receive formal incorporation until 1759, six years after the area became the town of South Hadley; it therefore was known as the First Precinct.

The First Parish was incorporated in 1824; in 1927, church and parish incorporated as one body.

Ministers: Grindall Rawson (ord. 1733; rem. 1741; d. 1777)  
 John Woodbridge (inst. 1742; d. 1783)  
 Joel Hayes (ord. 1782; d. 1827)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Smith (m. 1753)  
 Joseph White  
 Daniel Moody (m. 1782; d. 1803)  
 David Nash (m. 1782; d. 1803)  
 Josiah White (m. 1782; d. 1809)  
 Enoch White (m. 1782; d. 1813)<sup>1</sup>

There are virtually no church records antedating 1782; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited at the Mount Holyoke College Library, South Hadley.

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1. Sophie E. Eastman, In Old South Hadley (Chicago, 1912), lists one Ebenezer Moody as an early deacon of this church. She also suggests that there were two deacons named John White, both of them living in 1753. See also R. O. Dwight's "Historical Address" in A History of the Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary Celebration of the Town of South Hadley, Mass. July 29-30, 1903 (n.p., 1906).

The following deacons were elected at some unrecorded time between 1782 and 1822: Silas Smith (d. 1813), Levi Judd (rem. 1827), Aaron Graves (d. 1834), and Selah Smith (d. 1825).



CR I - "A Church Record Beginning at the Time of the Ordination of Joel Hayes to the work of the Gospel Ministry in South Hadley, 23 of October, 1782." Abstract of church votes, 1744-1745, 1767, 1769, 1782-1795, 1823-1825; vital statistics, 1782-1825.

CR II - "Church Records. Book No. 2." 1824-1835.

CR III - "Records of the 1st Church in South Hadley during my ministry. J. D. Condit. Third Book." 1835-1848.

CR IV - "Church Records, Fourth Book, 1848-1858."

CR V - "Book 5, Old Record. First Cong' Church, So. Hadley. 1858-1881 inc."

CR VI - "Church Records, 1882 to 1897."

CR VII - "Records of the First Cong'l Church of South Hadley, Mass. From Jan. 1st 1897 to May, 1923, Inclusive."

VS I - "Confession of Faith & Covenant, Principles & Regulations and a Chronological List of The Members of The First Congregational Church in South Hadley." Admissions, 1782-1941.

VS II - Minister's Record of Admissions, 1819-1836.

PR I - "South Hadley First Parish Record." 1824-1869.

PR II - "Records. First Parish, South Hadley." 1870-1915.

Miscellaneous records: Church Charitable Collections, 1845-1860; Parish Collector's Record Books, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898-1900; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1879-1928; miscellaneous Parish Accounts, 1896-1901.

In addition to the secondary works cited, see Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of Hadley, Massachusetts, at Hadley, June 8, 1859; including The Address by Rev. Prof. F. D. Huntington, D.D. of Harvard College (Northampton, 1859); First Congregational Church of South Hadley. Confession of Faith, Covenant, Ecclesiastical Principles, and Regulations, and Catalogue of Members, to January 1861 (Northampton, 1861); Report of the Standing Committee of the First Church in South Hadley (Springfield, 1868); Alice M. Walker, Historic Hadley: A Story of the Making of a Famous Massachusetts Town (New York, 1906).



SOUTH HADLEY, East Church and Precinct (see Granby).

SOUTH HADLEY, Second Church and Precinct (see Granby).

SOUTH HINGHAM, Church and Parish (see Hingham, Second).

SOUTH OR SOUTHERN NEW MARLBORO, Church (see New Marlboro, Southfield).

SOUTH READING, First Church and Parish (see Wakefield).

SOUTH SCITUATE, First Parish and Church (see Norwell).

SOUTH WARWICK, Church (see North Orange).

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, Church and Parish (see Weymouth, Old South Union).

# SOUTHWICK (C).

The Church was gathered on Aug. 17, 1773, and its society was incorporated in 1825. The society was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1891.

Ministers: Abel Forward (ord. 1773; d. 1786)  
Isaac Clinton (ord. 1788; diss. 1807; d. 1841)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: ----- Norton (m. 1773; d. 1777)  
Isaac Gillett (m. 1773; d. 1784)  
Moses Mitchell (e. 1784)  
Thomas Hough (e. 1784; m. 1794)  
George Granger (e. 1798; d. 1812)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the Congregational Church in Southwick, 1773-1820."

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1820-1836.

CR III - "Records of the Congregational Church in Southwick, 1836-1859." 1836-1861, 1891-1893.

CR IV - MISSING, Church Records, 1861-1894 (except for coverage of 1891-1893, above).

CR V - Church Records, 1894-1905, with copy of CR I and III.

CR COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Southwick, Mass. Records of the Congregational Church." Copy made in 1901 of fragmentary records, 1773-1900. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

SR I - "Records of the Congregational Church in Southwick, 1825-1847." Society records.



SOUTH WILBRAHAM, First Church (see Hampden).

SPENCER (C).

The Second Precinct in Leicester was set off in 1744, and the Second Church of Christ was gathered on May 17 of that year. When the precinct became the town of Spencer in 1753, the church's name was duly changed. The First Parish in Spencer was organized in 1832.

Ministers: Joshua Eaton (ord. 1744; d. 1772)  
Joshua Pope (ord. 1773; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: James Wilson (e. 1744/45; cta. 1758)<sup>1</sup>  
Archibald Thomas (e. 1744/45; rem. 1756; membership transferred 1776)  
John Muzzy (e. 1753; cta. 1789)  
Oliver Watson (e. 1763; cta. 1804)  
John Briscoe (e. 1788; cta. 1808)  
Reuben Underwood (e. 1792; cta. 1830)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1744-1816. Labeled "A."

CR II - "Records of The Congregational Church in Spencer, 1819." 1819-1854. Labeled "B."

CR III - "Records of the Congregational Church in Spencer." 1854-1922. Labeled "C."

PR I - "Records of the Congregational, or, first Parish of a Religious Society in the town of Spencer." 1832-1882. Labeled "D."

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1. Déacon John Worster, mentioned in CR I under date of 1761 as engaging in conflict with the Rev. Mr. Eaton, was an officer of the Boxford (West) church. Deacon Ball, op. cit., under date of 1762, has not been identified.

PR II - "Records of the Congregational or First Parish, Spencer, Mass. from 1883." 1833-1906. Labeled "E."

Miscellaneous records: Church Membership Registers (one chronologically arranged, labeled "M"; one alphabetically arranged, labeled "L"), 1744-1960; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1854-1864, 1864-1892; Pew Deeds, 1838-1849.

# SPRINGFIELD, First (C).

The church was gathered in 1637. Although the parish claims a more ancient date, its records commence in 1806, the same year in which the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were incorporated.

Ministers:	George Moxon	(sett. 1637; rem. 1651; d. 1687)
	Pelatiah Glover	(ord. 1661; d. 1692)
	Daniel Brewer	(ord. 1694; d. 1733)
	Robert Breck	(ord. 1736; d. 1784)
	Bezaleel Howard, D.D.	(ord. 1785; dism. 1809; d. 1837)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Samuel Wright	(e. ca. 1638; rem. n.d.; d. 1665)
	Samuel Chapin <sup>1</sup>	(e. ca. 1638; d. 1675)
	Jonathan Burt	(d. 1715)
	Benjamin Parsons	(d. 1689)
	John Hitchcock	(e. ca. 1689; d. ca. 1700)
	James Warriner	(d. 1727)
	Nathaniel Munn	(d. 1743)
	Henry Burt	(d. 1748)
	Nathaniel Brewer	(d. 1796)
	Jonathan Church	(m. 1747; d. 1761)
	Col. Josiah Dwight	(e. after 1743; d. 1768)
	Daniel Harris	(m. 1773; d. 1785)
	Moses Bliss	(m. 1780; d. 1814)
	William Pyncheon	(e. ca. 1785; d. 1805)
	Chauncy Brewer	(e. ca. 1796; d. 1830)

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1. See Howard M. Chapin, "The English Ancestry of Dea. Samuel Chapin of Springfield, Mass.," NEHGR, LXXXIII (1929), 351-357.



The church records antedating 1736 have long been missing. The extant records, unless otherwise noted, are owned by the church and deposited at a local bank.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1637-1736.

CR II - "Records of the first Church In Springfield, beginning Janry. 27th. 1735/6, pr. me, R. Breck." Vital statistics, 1736-1808, with scattered church votes, 1736, 1750, 1759, 1766, 1768, 1806, 1808.

VS II COPY - Ella May Lewis, "Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1736-1809 First Church, Springfield, Mass." Owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston.

CR III - "Records of the first church in Springfield." 1809-1854.<sup>1</sup>

VS III - "Records of the first church in Springfield begun January 26. 1809." Vital statistics, 1809-1854.

CR IV - Church Records, 1854-1870.

CR IV MIN - "Records of the 1st Cong. Ch. in Springfield, Commencing September 1854." 1854-1871. Ministerial record.

CR IV CL - "Records First Church. D. Chauncy Brewer, Clerk. 1856." 1856-1878. Church clerk's record.<sup>2</sup>

PR I - Parish Records, 1806-1875.

PR II - "Records of the First Parish. Springfield, Mass. January 1877." 1877-1913.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1884-1894, 1894-1899, 1899-1912; Church Standing Committee Records, 1876-1886, 1886-1895, 1895-1908; Parish Collectors'

1. Some additional light on early nineteenth century church affairs is contained in the MS "John Edwards his Book remembrance of deaths in Springfield January 1810," owned and held by the Springfield Public Library.

2. Although in existence at the time of the publication of the Church Manual of 1885 (cf. below), the record book opened in 1878 has since dropped from sight.



Accounts, 1890-1893, 1894-1895; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1890-1898; Parish Subscription Books, 1876, 1884; Pew Sale Records, 1830-1871.<sup>1</sup>

See also Robert Breck, Past Dispensations of Providence called to Mind (Hartford, Ct., 1784); George Bliss, An Address, Delivered at the Opening of the Town Hall in Springfield, March 24, 1828, containing Sketches of the Early History of the Town, and Those in Its Vicinity (Northampton, 1862); Henry Morris, History of the First Church in Springfield: An Address delivered June 22, 1875 (Springfield, 1875); 1637. Manual of the First Church of Christ and Names of All the Members From the Year 1735 to Nov. 1, 1885 (Springfield, 1885); The First Church, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1637-1915. Milestones Through Twenty-Seven Decades (Springfield, 1915); Three Hundred Years on Court Square. First Church of Christ, Springfield, Mass. (n.p., 1937); Marion J. Mears, "Three Hundred and Twenty Years of Inspiration: History of the Old First Church, Springfield, Massachusetts" (unpublished B.A. thesis, Bates College).

SPRINGFIELD, Fifth Parish, Fifth Society (see Chicopee).

SPRINGFIELD, Fourth Precinct and Church (see Wilbraham).

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1. The Springfield Public Library owns and holds two parish officers' "note and account" books for 1725-1754; these appear to be private records.



SPRINGFIELD, North Parish (see Chicopee).

SPRINGFIELD, Second Church and Parish (see Longmeadow).

SPRINGFIELD, Second Parish and Society (see Chicopee).

SPRINGFIELD, Second Precinct/Parish (see West Springfield).

SPRINGFIELD, Sixth Church (see Agawam).

SPRINGFIELD, West Precinct (see West Springfield).

SPRINGFIELD MOUNTAIN (see Wilbraham).

SPRINGFIELD Parish (see Dover).

SQUANICOOK Parish (see Townsend).

STERLING, First (Unitarian-Congregational-Baptist).

The church was gathered on Dec. 19, 1744 as the Church in the Second Precinct of Lancaster, the precinct having been set off in 1742. Popularly known as "Chocksett Church," the organization became the First Church in 1781, when the precinct was made the town of Sterling.

The early nineteenth century saw the orthodox minority of the church and parish withdraw to form their own church and society. In 1947, however, the Unitarian, Congregational and Baptist churches of Sterling united to form The First Church, which continues today.

Ministers:	John Mellen	(ord. 1744; dism. 1774; ministered at Sterling Second Church, 1774-rem. 1784; d. 1807)
	Reuben Holcomb	(ord. 1799; dism. 1814; d. 1826)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Jonathan Osgood	(e. 1745) <sup>1</sup>
	Oliver Moores	(e. 1745) <sup>1</sup>
	Capt. Asa Whitcomb	(e. 1760)
	Joseph Kilborn	(e. 1767; d. 1789)
	Thomas Fairbanks	(m. 1773-1778)
	Ebenezer Buss	(m. 1784)
	Joel Hoghton	(m. 1784)

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1. Is this the "Deacon Joseph Moores" who resigned from the Sterling diaconate in 1758?



Jonas Mason (m. 1796)  
 Samuel Clark (m. 1796)  
 Solomon Jewell (m. 1797; d. 1807)<sup>1</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1744-1813.<sup>2</sup>

CR I COPY - "Second Church in Lancaster, Now Sterling, Massachusetts. Records, 1744-1813." Photostat made in 1922; owned and held by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

CR II - "Records of the Church in Sterling. Vol. II. 1814-1815."

CR III - "Register of the Church in Sterling." 1815-1846.

CR PUB - Henry S. Nourse, "Book of Records for Y<sup>e</sup> Second Chh. in Lancaster," The Birth, Marriage and Death Register, Church Records and Epitaphs of Lancaster, Massachusetts. 1643-1850 (Lancaster, 1890), Chap. XII, pp. 374-391. Omits all church votes not directly related to genealogical matters, e.g., the details of the Rev. Mr. Mellen's disagreements with and dismissal from the church.

SR I - "Records of the First Congregational Society in Sterling." 1836-1869.

SR II - "Records of the First Congregational Society in Sterling." 1870-1947.

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1. It is not known if Deacon Joseph Capp of Sherborn, who transferred his church membership here in 1793, served as a Sterling deacon.

2. The original volume has dropped from sight since it was photographed in 1922. It may well have been destroyed in fires that since then have taken several of the town's public buildings.

STERLING, Second (C), extinct.

The church came together in Nov. of 1774, meeting for the next ten years in the home of the Rev. Mr. John Mellen, erstwhile minister of Sterling's First Church. After Mellen's removal from the town in 1784, this group was quickly absorbed by the older church.

Minister: John Mellen (preached from 1774; rem. 1784; d. 1807)

No records of this church being extant, nothing is known of the lay officers (if any) of the Second Church.

STOCKBRIDGE, Housatonic Indian Church (C) and First Church (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 18, 1734. Land in Stockbridge and West Stockbridge had been provided by the General Court, to the end that the Housatonics (Mahicans) might be Christianized and domesticated. Funds provided by interested individuals and by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Indians of New England and Parts Adjacent sustained the enterprise until 1783-1785, when the natives removed to lands given them by the Oneidas at New Stockbridge, N. Y.

What records there are suggest that although a good number of the Stockbridge Indians were baptized and received into church membership, the English settlers came quickly to dominate the life of the church. The church thus had no difficulty in surviving the withdrawal of the Housatonics. Its society was organized in 1825, and dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1937.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.



Ministers:	John Sergeant	(ord. Deerfield 1735 for work at Stockbridge; also taught Indian boys school here; d. 1749) <sup>1</sup>
	Jonathan Edwards	(sett. 1750; dism. to presidency of Princeton College 1758; d. 1758)
	Stephen West, D.D.	(ord. 1759; dism. 1818; d. 1819)
	John Sergeant, Jr.	(sett. as Indian missionary 1775; rem. with Indians 1785; d. 1824)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Hon. Timothy Woodbridge	(e. 1734; d. 1774)
	Peter Pauquaunaupet	(e. 1734; d. ca. 1770)
	Samuel Brown	(e. ca. 1750; d. 1784)
	Elnathan Curtis	(e. 1764-1766; d. 1781)
	James Willson	(m. 1776)
	Stephen Nash	(e. ca. 1780; d. 1803)
	Elisha Bradley	(e. ca. 1781; d. 1815)
	Hon. Timothy Edwards, Esq.	(e. ca. 1785; res. 1798; d. 1813)
	Dr. Erastus Sergeant	(e. 1798; d. 1814)
	Ebenezer Plumb	(e. 1803; d. 1821)
	Ebenezer Cook	(e. 1803; res. and rem. 1808; d. 1813)

No records survive which antedate 1759. The extant records are owned by the church, and are held in the Historical Room of the Stockbridge Public Library, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1734-1759.

CR II - "Records of the Church of Christ in Stockbridge." Copy of church records (originals lost), 1759-1776; original church records, 1776-1819.

CR III - "Church Records. Records of the Church of Christ in Stockbridge." 1819-1850.

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1. Mention must be made of the three masters of the Indian school: Timothy Woodbridge (sett. 1734; rem. 1740; d. 1770), Gideon Hawley (sett. 1751; rem. 1753; d. 1807), Cotton Mather Smith (sett. 1753; rem. 1754; d. 1806).



CR II & III COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Stockbridge, Mass., Congregational Church. Vol. I." Copy made in 1901. Owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR IV - "Records of the Congregational Church of Stockbridge, Mass., beginning with June - 1850." 1850-1916.

SR I - "Record of the Old Congregational Society of the town of Stockbridge." 1825-1879.

SR II - "Society Records. No. 2. 1880." 1880-1937.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1819-1878; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1837-1865, 1865-1899.

See also The Confession, Covenants, and Standing Rules of The Church in Stockbridge, Together with a Notice of The Officers, and Catalogue of the Existing Members (Stockbridge, 1827); David D. Field, An Historical Sketch Congregational Church in Stockbridge, Mass. (New York, 1853)<sup>1</sup>; Electa F. Jones, Stockbridge, Past and Present; or, The Records of an Old Mission Station (Springfield, 1854); E. W. B. Canning, "The Indian Mission at Stockbridge," BHSSC, I, 231-246; Sarah C. Sedgewick and Christina S. Marquand, Stockbridge, 1739-1939: A Chronicle (Great Barrington, 1939).

#### STONEHAM (C).

The church was gathered on July 2, 1729. The First Parish and Congregational Society was organized in 1827.

Ministers:	James Osgood	(ord. 1729; d. 1746)
	John Carnes	(ord. 1746; dism. 1757; d. 1802)
	John Searl	(inst. 1759; dism. 1776; d. 1787)

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1. Field's sketch was the basis for An Historical Sketch of the Congregational Church in Stockbridge, published at Stockbridge in 1874 and 1888.



John Cleaveland (sett. 1785; dism. 1794;  
d. 1815)  
John H. Stevens (inst. 1795; dism. 1827;  
d. 1851)

Ruling elders: one authority mentions "Elder Daniel Green" in or about 1746, but it is not clear whether so saying, he understands the difference between an elder and a deacon.<sup>1</sup>

Deacons: Daniel Gould (e. 1730)  
Daniel Green (e. 1730)  
Joseph Green (e. 1747)  
Edward Bucknam (e. 1769)  
Daniel Green (e. 1769)  
Jabez Lynde (e. 1769)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1728-1798 (lacuna, 1758-1776).

CR II - Church Records, 1798-1843.

VS PUB - C. E. Beals, "Church Records at Stoneham, Mass.," NEHGR, LIV (1900), 392-396, LV (1901), 142-145, LVI (1902), 63-66, 289-294. Baptisms, 1729-1832.

Miscellaneous records: Minister's Commonplace Book, 1729-1730; Minister's Accounts, 1740-1751.

STOUGHTON, First Parish (Univ.)  
First Church (C).

In 1715, part of Dorchester was incorporated as the South Precinct of that town, and two years later a church (now Canton First) was gathered here. The adjacent area having been made the town of Stoughton in 1726, in 1736 the South

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1. Silas Dean, A Brief History of the Town of Stoneham, Mass. from Its First Settlement to the Present Time (Stoneham, 1870), passim.



Precinct of Dorchester was annexed to it, and the 1717 church became the First in Stoughton. Stoughton's Second Precinct was incorporated in 1740, and a church (now Sharon First) gathered there in the same year. Stoughton's Third Precinct was incorporated in 1743, and its church (now Stoughton First) was gathered here on Aug. 10, 1744 as the Third in Stoughton.

The Second Precinct, renamed Stoughtonham in 1765, in 1783 became the town of Sharon. The 1744 church (and its 1743 precinct) now became Stoughton's Second Church and Precinct. In 1797, the First Precinct became the town of Canton, carrying with it the 1717 church, and leaving the 1744 church as Stoughton's First Church. It is, of course, with this latter church we have to do.

The orthodox withdrew in 1822 to form the present Congregational Church; the liberals remained in possession of the parish, moving in a brief time from Unitarianism to Universalism. Both churches today claim the 1744 date of origin.

Ministers: Jedediah Adams (ord. 1746; d. 1799)  
Edward Richmond (ord. 1792; res. 1817; d. 1842)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of records, knowledge of the church's deacons is fragmentary.

George Talbot (m. 1745-1759)  
Lt. Roger Sumner (e. 1795)  
Lt. John Holmes (e. 1795)

In 1792, the only record of the church's preceding history consisted in a brief account of the church's gathering in 1744, and the names of its first twenty-four members.<sup>1</sup> To this account, the second minister added his records for the years 1792-1817. This book, 1744/1792-1817, was sequestered by the orthodox in 1822, then returned to the First Parish, and has since dropped from sight. Similarly, the records of the Unitarian-Universalist body for the years following 1828 have disappeared.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1744/1792-1822.

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1. D. Hamilton Hurd, History of Norfolk County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1884), p. 395.



CR II - Church Records, 1822-1828. Owned by the First Parish Church, and deposited at the Stoughton Public Library.

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1828- .

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Accounts, 1745-1759, also held by the Stoughton Public Library.

A fire in 1942 destroyed all prior records owned and held by the First Congregational Church of Stoughton.

See also Hurd, op. cit.; Daniel T. V. Huntoon, History of the Town of Canton, Norfolk County, Massachusetts (Cambridge, 1893); George W. Cooke, Origin and Early History of the First Parish, Sharon, Massachusetts (Boston, 1903); John E. Flynn, mimeographed "Stoughton, Mass: A Study in Local History," 1932, owned and held by the Stoughton Public Library.

STOUGHTON, First Church and Parish (see Canton).

STOUGHTON, Second Precinct (see Sharon).

STOUGHTON, Second Precinct (see Stoughton).

STOUGHTON, Third Precinct (see Stoughton).

STOUGHTONHAM, Church (see Sharon).

STOW, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered at some point during the years 1699-1701.<sup>1</sup> Its parish was organized in 1833. The church was reorganized in 1840.

Ministers:	John Eveleth	(inst. 1702; dism. 1717; d. 1734)
	John Gardner	(ord. 1718; d. 1775)
	Jonathan Newell	(ord. 1774; d. 1830)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the sparseness of the church records, the list of deacons must be derived from the town records.

Thomas Daby	(m. 1727)
Ebenezer Graves	(m. 1755)
Timothy Gibson	(d. 1757)
John Hale	(d. 1766)
Joshua Whitney	(m. 1769)
Samuel Gates	(d. 1788)
Daniel Hapgood	(d. 1790)
Stephen Gibson	(d. 1806)
William Whitcomb	(d. 1812) <sup>2</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "The First Parish of Stow, 1701-1937." Brief epitomes of pastorates, 1828-1937, with scattered references to church activities, 1701-1828.

1. According to CR I, flyleaf: "Organized in 1701 under the pastoral charge of Rev. John Eveleth. Reorganized in 1840 by Rev. W. H. Kinsley."

2. The following deacons died after 1812, most of them at an advanced age, so that some at least may have been elected before 1806: Isaac Whitney (d. 1815), Abraham Whitney (d. 1818, ae. 93), Samuel Gates (d. 1834, ae. 78), John Patch (d. 1841, ae. 93), and Jacob Whitney (d. 1844, ae. 85).



CR II - "Records of the First Parish, Stow, Mass. July 1879." Church records, 1879-1949.

Miscellaneous records: fragments from memorandum book, 1786-1787, listing sermons preached and a few baptisms; Pew Deeds, 1848, owned and held by the Historical Library of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston.

See also Jonathan Newell, A Sermon, Preached at Stow, on the 16th of May, 1783 (Boston, 1784); John Gardner, "An Account of the Town of Stow," MHSC, 1st Ser., X (1809; rep. 1857), 83-84; Charles Lowell, Theology, and Not Religion, the Source of Division and Strife in the Christian Church (Boston, 1829); J. Sidney Moulton and Samuel C. Beane, 1702-1902 The Two Hundredth Anniversary of the First Parish Church of Stow, Massachusetts (n.p., 1902); Lon R. Call, typescript, "Address at the 100th Anniversary Re-dedication Service of the Meeting House of the First Parish of Stow, Mass. August 29, 1948," owned and held by the church.

STOW, Church and Society in the North-westerly part (see Boxboro).

STREAMFIELD (see Westfield, First).

STURBRIDGE, Federated (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 29, 1736 in the area then known as "New Medfield." When the area was made the town of Sturbridge in 1738, the church's name was accordingly

changed. Its Congregational Society was organized in 1831 and dissolved in 1898.

A New Light separation from the church in 1747 eventually led to the establishment of a Baptist church in the town.

Ministers: Caleb Rice (ord. 1736; d. 1759)  
 Joshua Paine (ord. 1761; d. 1799)  
 Otis Lane (ord. 1800; dism. 1819; d. 1842)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Daniel Fiske (e. 1736; demitted to Separates 1747)  
 Ebenezer Stearns (e. 1736; res. and rem. 1743)  
 Isaac Newell (e. 1741; m. 1751; demitted to Separates n.d.)  
 Joseph Baker (e. 1747; d. 1783)  
 Edward Foster (e. 1749; m. 1760)  
 Moses Weld (e. 1764; m. 1788)  
 Joshua Harding (m. 1784-1788)  
 ----- Benson (d. 1786)  
 Roland Clark (m. 1786)  
 Job Hammant (m. 1802; res. 1807)  
 Eleazar Hebard (m. 1804)  
 ----- Shaw (m. 1805)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "New-Medfield Chh Records." 1730, 1736-1764, with vital statistics to 1767.<sup>1</sup>

CR I COPY - "Church Records, Vol. 1st (Copied) 1736 to 1758." Copy made in 1896 by A. Holbrook.

CR II - Church Records, 1786-1789, 1800-1801, with vital statistics 1786-1801 and marriages only, 1800-1819.<sup>2</sup>

1. "January 1801. Be it known to all whom it may concern, that this book was torn & mutilated when it came into hand. Otis Lane." CR I, n.p.

2. "... voted that I should record a number of Baptisms which had been omitted by the Revd Mr. Pain through mistake or lost, with a volume of chh. records, taken from his house in the night, some time in the year 1787: which baptisms are recorded on the 29th & 30, 31th, 32d pages." CR II, p. 8, under date of July 9, 1801.



CR III - "The Records of the Congregational Church in Sturbridge. From December 10th, 1800." 1800-1819.

CR IV - "Congregational Church of Sturbridge. Book of Records. Commencing with the year 1819." 1819-1831.

VS IV - "Book of Records. Marriages & Deaths. Sturbridge." 1819-1831.

CR V - "Records of The first Congregational Church in Sturbridge. commencing with the 27 October 1831." 1831-1895.

SR I - "Records of the Congregational Society in Sturbridge Commencing April 27th AD 1831." 1831-1871.

SR II - "Records of the Congregational Society in Sturbridge April 1st 1871." 1871-1898.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1827-1883; Pew Rent Accounts, 1856-1857.

See also Manual for the Use of the Members of the Congregational Church in Sturbridge, January 1843 (West Brookfield, Mass., 1843); George H. Haynes, Historical Sketch of the First Congregational Church, Sturbridge, Massachusetts (Worcester, 1910).

STURBRIDGE, Separate (C), extinct.

The Sturbridge New Lights withdrew from the town church in May of 1747, and on May 10 following, gathered themselves into a Separate Congregational church. Among their number were two deacons of the town church, as well as the man who eventually became their pastor.

In May of 1749, having made a study of New Testament teachings on baptism, the pastor and sixty Separates accepted Baptist principles, received adult baptism, and thereby concluded the church's career as a Separate Congregational church. Those few who did not declare for Baptist sentiments were eventually drawn back into the life of the town church.



Minister: John Blunt (ord. 1748; declared for Baptist principles 1749; returned to pedit-baptist sentiments 1752 and was excommunicated by the now-Baptist church; d. 1755)

Ruling elder: David Morse ?<sup>1</sup>

Deacons: Deacon Daniel Fiske ?<sup>2</sup>  
Deacon Isaac Newell ?<sup>2</sup>

The only known records consist in a collection of twelve MS letters, spanning the years 1745-1762, owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston. Nine of the letters are statements of reasons for separation, given by New Lights to the town church; two are later expressions of sorrow for having engaged in the separation; one is an admonition written to a Separatist by the minister of the town church. Extensive use of this material has been made by Ola E. Winslow in Meetinghouse Hill, 1630-1783 (New York, 1952), pp. 231-236.

#### SUDBURY, First Parish (U).

The ancient church at Sudbury was gathered in August of 1640, and its associated Precinct on the West Side of the River was incorporated in 1708. The development of a second

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1. Isaac Backus, A Church History of New-England, II (Providence, 1784), p. 192, remarks that an early member of the Separate Congregational church, David Morse, was a ruling elder of the Sturbridge Baptist church, and implies that he filled the same office in the short-lived Separate Congregational conventicle.

2. Among the original Separates were Sturbridge deacons Fiske and Newell, and it seems probable that one or both of them served the Separate church in that capacity. See George H. Haynes, Historical Sketch of the First Congregational Church, Sturbridge, Massachusetts (Worcester, 1910), pp. 13-15; C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 101-103.



center of population in 1722 led to the organization of an East (Second) Parish, and on Feb. 11, 1723 to the division of the ancient church into two independent bodies: the West Church (now Sudbury) and the East Church (now Wayland). The first trace of friendly rivalry for the right to the 1640 date appeared in 1765, when the West Church voted itself "the First Church of Sudbury," because the "standing part" of the ancient church had formed a church in the East Parish.<sup>1</sup> The East Church replied in 1780, denominating itself the First Church in East Sudbury; when the area was made the town of Wayland in 1835, the name of the First Church and Parish of Wayland was adopted.<sup>2</sup> The West (First) Church of Sudbury took the title of First Congregational Unitarian Church in 1844, and its parish was designated the First Unitarian Society. The Trustees of the Sudbury Ministerial Fund had been incorporated in 1817.<sup>3</sup>

Ministers: Edmund Brown (ord. 1640; d. 1678)  
 James Sherman (ord. 1678; dism. 1705; d. 1718)  
 Israel Loring (ord. 1706; remained with West  
 Church 1723; d. 1772)  
 Jacob Bigelow (ord. 1772; d. 1816)

Ruling elders: none.<sup>4</sup>

1. SUDBURY, CR I, p. 217.

2. While it may be splitting hairs to argue the two claims to the 1640 date, both churches obviously being descended from the ancient church, it should be observed that (a) the ministerial continuity rests with Sudbury, (b) from 1723 until 1765 there seems to have been no quarrel with the notion that the West Church was the ancient church, and (c) not until 1780 did the East Church evince much interest in the title "First."

3. The present Congregational Church of Sudbury, formed by orthodox personnel who withdrew from the parish church in 1839-1840, also claims the 1640 date.

4. Sumner C. Powell, Puritan Village: The Formation of a New England Town (New York, 1965), p. 1, refers to one of the founders of Sudbury, Peter Noyes, as a "church elder," but provides no documentation for that claim.



Deacons:	Edmund Rice	
	William Brown	(m. 1649)
	----- Haines	(m. 1669)
	Joseph Noyes	(m. 1705-1706)
	James Haines	(m. 1705-1723)
	Edmund Rice	(m. 1705-1706)
	Matthew Stone	(e. 1718)
	John Clap	(e. 1719; m. 1723)
	John Moore	(m. 1723; cta. 1747)
	Josiah Haines	(e. 1733; d. 1775)
	Jonathan Rice	(e. 1736; m. 1756)
	Jacob Moore	(e. 1762; m. 1772)
	Thomas Plympton	(e. 1771; m. 1772)
	Samuel Dakin	(e. 1775)
	Oliver Noyes	(e. 1788)
	Thomas Walker	(e. 1789)

The records antedating 1704, with the exception of some vital statistics, have long been lost.<sup>1</sup> The extant records are owned by the church and deposited with a local bank, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Church Records of Sudbury. 1st Parish. 1704." Vital statistics, 1640-1873, and church votes, 1705, 1724-1873; lacuna, 1834-1866.

VS I COPY A - Church Records, largely vital statistics, being a MS copy of the earlier entries in CR I.

VS I COPY B - "Church Records of Sudbury 1st Parish 1704." MS copy of CR I. Owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

1. A "Summary History" printed in 1832, a copy of which is pasted on the inside cover of CR I, states that in that year, the only surviving church records for the years 1640-1705 consisted in fragmentary vital statistics.

Sumner Powell, *op. cit.*, observes the lack of early church records (p. 202), but then all too casually accepts the verdict of "local historians" (whom he does not identify) that "the first Sudbury 'church' did not even keep a separate book" of records (p. 183). Powell's reasons for punctuating the word church as he does are not explained; his unwarranted assumption that records were not kept is a flaw in an otherwise helpful scholarly performance.



VS II - "Jacob Bigelows Book. 1722." Vital statistics, 1772-1814.

PR I - "Records of the First Parish in Sudbury, 1836-1956."

MF I - Records of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, 1817-1858.

See also [Israel Loring], "Memoir of Sudbury," MHSC, 1st Ser., X (1809, rep. 1857), 86-88; "A Topographical Description and Historical Account of East Sudbury [Wayland], in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including its Ecclesiastical History," MHSC, 2nd Ser., IV (1816, rep. 1846), 60-63; Alfred S. Hudson, The History of Sudbury, Massachusetts. 1638-1889 (Boston, 1889); William L. Raymond, The First Parish, Wayland, Massachusetts, 1640-1940 (n.p., 1940; abstracted and printed in The Wayland Chronicle, XXVIII, iii (Ja. 19, 1940); John C. Power and Carl Scovel, "The History of the First Parish in Sudbury," mimeographed item, copy owned and held by the Sudbury church.

SUDBURY, East Parish and Church (see Wayland).

SUDBURY, West Parish and Church (see Sudbury, First).

SUDBURY, West Side of the River Precinct (see Sudbury, First).

## SUNDERLAND (C).

The church was gathered on Jan. 1, 1718 in the town of Sunderland, popularly known until the middle of that century as "Swampfield." The First Congregational Society was organized in 1831.

A New Light withdrawal in 1749 saw several families holding Separate worship until 1761, when they migrated to Bennington, Vt.<sup>1</sup> No evidence exists of a Separate church having been formed.

Ministers:	Joseph Willard	(ord. 1718; rem. 1721; d. 1723)
	William Rand	(ord. 1724; dism. 1745; d. 1779)
	Joseph Ashley	(inst. 1747; demitted 1784; d. 1797)
	Asa Lyon	(ord. 1792; dism. 1794; d. 1841)
	David H. Williston	(inst. 1804; dism. 1806; d. 1845)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Samuel Gunn <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1718; d. 1755)
	Isaac Hubbard	(e. 1718; d. 1750)
	Samuel Montague	(e. 1761; d. 1779) <sup>3</sup>
	Joseph Field	(e. 1750; d. 1754)
	Nathaniel Smith	(e. 1750; d. 1789)
	Joseph Field II	(e. 1768; d. 1798)
	John Gunn	(e. ca. 1779; dism. and rem. n.d.; d. 1793)
	Jedidiah Clark	(e. 1792; d. 1800)
	Elisha Smith	(e. 1792; d. 1820)
	Elijah Hubbard	(e. 1799; demitted to Baptists, n.d.; d. 1834)

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1. C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 108, 317.

2. Sometimes given as "Samuel Green."

3. Montague apparently served a term as deacon at Sunderland before the dates given here, but the details of that first term are unknown.



John Montague (e. 1805; d. 1832)  
 Eleazar Warner (e. 1805; d. 1829)

The records of the church for 1718-1832 were destroyed in the latter year.<sup>1</sup> The extant records are owned by the church and held by the Swampfield Historical Society, which has quarters in the local public library.

CR I - "Church Records 1833 to 1893." Historical memoranda, 1718-1833; church records, 1833-1893.

CR II - "Church Records." 1894-1937.

VS I - Vital Statistics, compiled 1867, with later additions. 1749-1897.

VS II - Vital Statistics, 1898-1940.

SR I - MISSING, Society Records, 1831-1842.

SR II - "First Cong'l Society Records 1842 to 1897." (Flyleaf: "Records of the first Congregational Society in Sunderland Book No 2: AD 1842.")

Miscellaneous records: Society Assessors Rate Books, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847-1849, 1850, 1851/1853, 1852-1855, 1856/1857/1861/1863/1865/1867, 1858/1860, 1862/1864/1866, 1868, 1869/1871; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1863-1900; Ministerial Fund Accounts, 1831, 1832.

See also Isaac Jennings, Memorials of a Century. Embracing a Record of Individuals and Events chiefly in the Early History of Bennington, Vt. and Its First Church (Boston, 1869); PVMAHP, I (1870-1879), passim; John M. Smith, 1673 1899 History of the Town of Sunderland, Massachusetts (Greenfield, 1899).

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1. See Jennings, op. cit., p. 49; also flyleaf of VS I.

SUNDERLAND, North Parish (see Montague).

SUNDERLAND, Second Church and Precinct/Parish (see Montague).

SUTTON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 9, 1720. The First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1794; it was reincorporated in 1808 as the South Parish in Sutton.

Ministers:	John McKinstry	(ord. 1720; dism. 1728; d. 1754)
	David Hall, D.D.	(ord. 1729; d. 1789)
	Edmund Mills	(ord. 1790; d. 1825)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Timothy Manning	(e. 1720; dism. and rem. ca. 1730)
	Percival Hall	(e. 1721; m. 1747)
	Elisha Putnam	(e. 1730; m. 1739)
	Samuel Lilley	(e. 1737; m. 1741)
	Cornelius Putnam	(e. 1744; m. 1759)
	Benjamin Woodbury	(e. 1744; d. 1781)
	Benjamin Morse, M.D.	(e. 1761; d. 1776)
	John Fry	(e. 1762; dism. and rem. 1764)
	Tarrant Putnam	(e. 1765; m. 1787)
	Willis Hall	(e. 1775; m. 1787)
	John Haven	(e. 1775; d. 1784)
	Nathan Putnam, Esq.	(e. 1791)
	Daniel Torrey	(e. 1794)
	Reuben Putnam	(e. 1794; d. 1797)
	Benjamin Hicks	(e. 1800)
	Jonathan Leland, Esq.	(e. 1800)



The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Record 1720-1825 Vol. I." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Records pertaining to the Church of Christ in Sutton 1743.")<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "Church Records Vol. II 1825-1859." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church of Christ in Sutton. Vol. II. Commencing At the Death of the Rev. E. Mills Novr. 7th 1825.")

CR III - "Church Records Vol. III 1859-1887." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Congregational Church in Sutton. Vol. III. Commencing June 1st 1859.")

CR IV - "Church Record Vol. IV 1887-1911." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Congregational Church in Sutton, Mass. Vol. IV. Commencing January 1st, 1887.")

SR I - "Society Record 1743-1773 Vol. I."

SR II - "Society Records Vol II 1783 to 1847."

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1811-1846; Extracts of wills and deeds, 1855-1950; Society Committee Accounts, 1808-1869; Pew Deeds, 1830-1895, 1849-1882.

SUTTON, Separate (C), extinct.

Sutton New Lights gathered a church here and ordained a minister on Jan. 31, 1751. By 1765, its condition was sufficiently weak so that it was eclipsed by the Baptist church organized in Sutton in that year.

Minister: Ezekiel Cole (ord. 1751; d. 1799)

Since there are no extant records of this church, nothing is known of its lay officers.

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1. The records for 1720-1728 were taken by McKinsty at the time of his dismissal from the pastorate.

See Isaac Backus, A Church History of New-England. Extending from 1783 to 1796 (Boston, 1796), pp. 176-177; C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 318.

SUTTON, North Parish (see Millbury).

SUTTON, Second Church and Parish (see Millbury).

SWAMPFIELD (see Sunderland).

[SWANSEA, First Christian Church (C).]

The church was gathered in 1693, being the second church in Swansea.<sup>1</sup> From that time until 1803, it was ecclesiastically independent, requiring of prospective members only an affirmation of general Christian beliefs. From 1803 to 1819, the church was loosely affiliated with the Six-Principle Baptists; then in 1820, it severed that relationship, and remained independent for some sixty more years. About 1880, the church associated with the Rhode Island and

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1. The first was a Baptist church gathered in 1663.



Massachusetts Christian Conference. When that denomination merged with the Congregational Churches in 1929, the Swansea church participated in the merger.

Ministers:	Thomas Barnes	(ord. 1693, recognized by the General Court as a "Separatist" cleric; d. 1706)
	Joseph Mason	(sett. 1709; ord. 1719; d. 1748)
	John Pierce	(ord. 1715; d. 1750)
	Job Mason	(ord. 1738; d. 1775)
	Russell Mason	(ord. 1752; d. 1799)
	Benjamin Mason	(ord. 1784; d. 1813)

Lay officers: since there are no extant records of this church,<sup>1</sup> virtually nothing is known of its lay personnel. The first deacon was Isaac Mason, a brother of the second minister; he was elected in 1693 and died in 1742.

See Isaac Backus, A Church History of New England, II (Providence, 1784), p. 43, and III (Boston, 1796), p. 145; Leonard Bliss, Jr., The History of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts (Boston, 1836); D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Bristol County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1883), pp. 463-494, 652-678; Otis O. Wright, History of Swansea, Massachusetts, 1667-1917 (Fall River, 1917); Richard L. Bowen, Early Rehoboth: Documented Historical Studies of Families and Events in This Plymouth County Township (Rehoboth, 1945-1950), 4 vols.

TAUNTON, First Church and Parish (Community Church).

The church was gathered in 1637; in 1792 it took the title of First Church. The First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1791, and the Trustees of the Society in 1793. Church and society united as one body in 1937.

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1. Two old record books, held by the Town Clerk, pertain to the "Swanzey Village Meeting house" and not to the church under discussion.



In 1962, after a year of negotiation, the church voted to take leave of the Unitarian Universalist denomination, and to become a community church.

Ministers:	William Hooke	(ord. pastor 1640/41; rem. 1644; d. 1677/78)
	Nicholas Street	(ord. teacher 1640/41; rem. 1659; d. 1674)
	George Shove	(ord. 1665; d. 1687)
	Samuel Danforth, Jr.	(ord. 1687; d. 1727)
	Thomas Clap	(ord. 1729; disp. 1738; d. 1774)
	Josiah Crocker	(ord. 1742; disp. 1765; d. 1774)
	Caleb Barnum	(inst. 1769; d. 1776)
	Elias Jones	(ord. 1777; disp. 1778)
	Ephraim Judson	(inst. 1780; disp. 1790; d. 1813)
	John Foster	(inst. 1792; disp. 1799; d. 1832)
	John Pippon	(ord. 1800; d. 1821)

Ruling elders: John Strong<sup>1</sup>  
Henry Hodges<sup>1</sup>

Deacons:	Walter Deane	
	Samuel Deane	
	Richard Williams <sup>2</sup>	
	Nathaniel Williams <sup>3</sup>	(d. 1692)
	John Staples	(e. 1725; rem. 1731)
	Samuel Sumner	(e. 1730; m. 1733)
	William Hodges	(e. 1731)
	John Mason	(e. 1731)
	Robert Luscombe	(m. 1780-1792)
	Simeon Williams	(m. 1780; rem. to Taunton West Church 1792)

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1. The names of these two Taunton elders are given in Samuel Hopkins Emery, The Ministry of Taunton, with Incidental Notices of Other Professions (Boston, 1853), p. 238.

2. The first three deacons are listed by Emery, loc. cit.

3. See "The Estate of Deacon Nathaniel Williams," MD, XXII (1920), 60-62.



Daniel Wilde	(e. 1781; rem. to Taunton West Church 1792)
Robert Crosman, Jr.	(m. 1790; rem. to Taunton West Church 1792; m. 1810)
Nathaniel Briggs	(m. 1790; rem. to Taunton West Church 1792)
Capt. Ebenezer Dean	(e. 1794; m. 1808)
Capt. Abraham Hewitt	(e. 1794; m. 1808)

Most of the pre-1780 church records were destroyed by fire in 1838. The extant records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I MISC - "Book of Justice Thomas Clap - Court Records, 1729-1774." Private records kept by Clap during his pastorate: church votes and marriages, 1729-1739; records as justice of the peace, 1744-1774. Owned and held by the Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton.

CR I - "Church Records. No. 1. 1780. 1." (Flyleaf: "Chh Book - 1792 Taunton 16th May, 1792 Records of the proceedings of the first Congregational chh, in Taunton AD 1792.") Copy of church records, 1729-1739; church records, 1780-1795, with vital statistics to 1832.

CR II - "Records of the church united with the first congregational Society in Taunton, Jany. 15. 1800. No. 2. N.B. All the records anteceding to 1780, have been lost." 1799-1817.

CR III - "Records of the Church connected with the first Congregational Society in Taunton 1821." 1821-1865.

VS I - Signatures to the Church Covenant, n.d. (19th century).

SR I - Society Records, 1791-1816.

SR II - Society Records, 1816-1838.

SR III - "Records of the First Congregational Society in Taunton 1839-1875. No. 3."

SR IV - "Records of the First Congregational Society in Taunton 1875-1910. No. 4."

Miscellaneous records: Ministerial Correspondence, 1796-1925; Society Register of Membership, 1868-1909; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1823-1834, 1851-1875, 1875-1878,



1878-1882, 1878-1888, 1883-1885, 1889-1894, 1894-1897, 1897-1900; Society Trustees Records, 1796-1871; Pew Deeds, 1842-1877.

See also Covenant of the First Congregational Church, in Taunton, with a List of Members, January 1, 1853 (Taunton, 1853); Samuel Hopkins Emery, op. cit. and History of Taunton, Massachusetts from Its Settlement to the Present Time (Syracuse, N.Y., 1893); First Parish Church 325th Anniversary 1637-1962 Oldest House of Religion in Bristol County Taunton, Massachusetts, U.S.A. June 3 to 10, 1962 [Taunton, 1962].

#### TAUNTON, West (C).

The church was gathered on March 2, 1792 when all but four members of the old Taunton church withdrew in protest against the settlement of John Foster. The West Congregational Society, organized in 1791, was incorporated in 1793. In 1951 the society dissolved, at the time of the church's incorporation.

Minister: from 1792 until 1809, the church was supplied by the Rev. Ephraim Judson and others; in 1809, it settled its first minister.

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Deacon Simeon Williams	(m. as deacon Taunton First 1780; rem. here 1792)
	Deacon Daniel Wilde	(e. deacon Taunton First 1781; rem. here 1792)
	Deacon Robert Crosman, Jr.	(m. as deacon Taunton First 1790; rem. here 1792; res. 1810)



Deacon Nathaniel Briggs (m. as deacon Taunton  
First, 1790; rem. here  
1792)<sup>1</sup>

The records are owned by the church and deposited at the Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton.

CR I - "Church Records - No. 1." (Flyleaf: "A Record of the proceedings of the only Congregational Church of Christ in Taunton in the County of Bristol, in Massachusetts - Beginning March 2d AD. 1792.") 1792-1924.

SR I - "A Register: 1791." (Flyleaf: "A Book of Record of the Proceedings, from Time to Time, in the Ministerial Concerns of the congregational Inhabitants of the first congregational Society in Taunton, who assemble nigh the dwelling House of Nathaniel Briggs in the westerly Part of sd. Town for the Purpose of carrying on the social Worship of Almighty God. 1791.") Society records, 1791-1846.

SR II - "Record of the proceedings of West-Congregational Society in Taunton." 1847-1951.

Miscellaneous records: Society Collector's Accounts, 1895-1896, 1896-1897, 1897-1898; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1796-1858, 1821-1850, 1860-1883, 1883-1921, 1886-1890.

TAUNTON, North Precinct (see Norton, Congregational Parish).

TAUNTON NORTH-PURCHASE, East End (see Easton).

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1. The records mention "Deacon Isaac Tubbs" in 1803, and "Deacon Nathaniel Deane" in 1810. Actually, Tubbs was elected in 1807, and Deane in 1810.

TAUNTON, South Precinct (and Church in) (see Dighton, First).

TEMPLETON, First Federated (U/C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 10, 1755 as the Church in Narragansett, No. 6. In 1762, the tract became the town of Templeton, and the church's name was duly changed. The First Parish, organized in 1806, was dissolved in 1923, at the time of the church's incorporation. More recently, a federation has been effected, joining the old Unitarian church with the Congregational body which separated from the town church early in the 19th century.

Ministers: Daniel Pond (ord. 1755; dism. 1759;  
d. 1797)  
Ebenezer Sparhawk (ord. 1761; d. 1805)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Charles Baker (e. 1763; res. and rem. 1785;  
d. 1813)  
Jonas Wilder (e. 1767; rem. 1782-1789)  
Phineas Byam (e. 1767; d. 1807)  
Paul Kendall (e. 1780; d. ca. 1825)  
Josiah Wilder (e. 1790; d. ca. 1815)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1754-1805.

CR II - Church Records, 1807-1856.

CR III - Church Records, 1860-1886.

CR I, II, III COPY - "Book of Records Containing the Votes  
&c of y<sup>e</sup> Church in Templeton." Copy made by E. Wyman  
Stone, n.d.

PR I - Parish Records, 1806-1874.

PR II - Parish Records, 1888-1923.



Miscellaneous records: Ministerial Fund Trustees Records, 1814-1830. Also the records of the orthodox church formed in the 19th century: Church Records, 1868-1922; Society Records, 1832-1879.

TEMPLETON, Second Church (see Phillipston).

TEMPLETON, West Church and Parish (see Phillipston).

TEWKSBURY (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 23, 1737, and received incorporation in 1891.

Ministers:	Samson Spaulding	(ord. 1737; d. 1796)
	Titus Theodore Barton	(ord. 1792; diss. 1803; d. 1827)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Daniel Kittredge	(e. 1737/38; d. 1742)
	Nathan Shed	(e. 1737/38; d. 1774)
	Joseph Kittredge	(e. 1741/42; d. 1774)
	Abraham Stickney	(e. 1759; d. 1783)
	Isaac Kittredge	(e. 1759; d. 1779)
	Jacob Shed	(e. 1774; d. 1810)
	Eldad Worcester	(e. 1776; d. 1779)
	Ezra Kendall	(e. 1779; d. 1817)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records." 1734, 1737-1850.

CR II - "The Records of The Transactions of the Church of Christ in Tewksbury -- of the persons admitted to the Communion of the Church. -- of Baptisms in the Church. -- And of Marriages, and deaths in the Town. As collected, recorded & kept by Titus Theodore Barton Pastor of said Church." 1792-1803.

CR III - "Records of the Congregational Church in Tewksbury From February 24, 1847." 1847-1891.

CR IV - Church Records, 1891-1909.

THORNDIKE, Church (see Palmer).

[TISBURY, Meeting House, (C) & (U) Churches.]

Since reference is occasionally made to early church activities at Tisbury, a brief entry is required at this point.<sup>1</sup>

Tisbury's residents were first ministered to by the Rev. John Mayhew, from 1673 to 1689 pastor of the church in what is now West Tisbury. That the Rev. Experience Mayhew accepted a call to be "teacher" at Tisbury<sup>2</sup> is extremely

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1. Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties," Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897, II (Boston, 1898), 185.

Tisbury is frequently called in the records by its Indian name, Takemmy (or Taacame or Taukemy).

2. Charles E. Banks, The History of Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts, in Three Volumes (Boston, 1911; Edgartown, 1925), I, p. 249.



doubtful, since such acceptance would have conflicted with his missionary work to the whole of the Vineyard Indians. However, it is probable that he, like the Rev. Thomas West (ca. 1745),<sup>1</sup> frequently preached at Tisbury. It is known that in 1779, the Rev. George Daman of West Tisbury was authorized by his congregation to give a fourth of his time to preaching at Tisbury.

Not until about 1788 was a meetinghouse erected in Tisbury, when the use of the building was allocated two-thirds of the time to local Baptists and one-third of the time to Tisbury Congregationalists. By the opening of the 19th century, Baptists and Methodists were sufficiently numerous in the area to permit both to organize churches of their own. The Congregationalists did not gather a church until 1825, nor settle a minister until 1844. In 1859 they gave way to local Universalists and Unitarians, who flourished briefly and then also disappeared from the scene.

TISBURY, First Church and Society (see West Tisbury).

TISBURY, Westerly Parish (see West Tisbury).

TITICUT Indian Congregational Church (see Middleboro, Titicut Indian Congregational Church).

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1. Banks, op. cit., II, p. 32.

TITICUT PRECINCT, Church (see Middleboro, North).

TOLLAND (C).

The church was gathered in 1798 as the Church in the Third (West) Parish of Granville, the latter body having been organized in 1790. The name was changed when Tolland was made a town in 1810.

Minister: Roger Harrison (ord. 1798; dism. 1822; d. 1853)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Thomas Twining (e. 1799; res. 1816; d. 1817)  
Marvin R. Moore (e. 1799; d. 1813)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the Church in West Granville." 1798-1816.

CR Ia - "Records of the Church of Christ in Tolland from the Commencement of my Settlement over it as their Pastor which was in January the 23, 1798." Parallels CR I; largely vital statistics.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1816-1839.

CR III - "Church Records of Tolland." 1839-1876.

CR I, Ia, III COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Congregational Church, Tolland, Mass." Copy of church records, 1798-1816, 1839-1876, made in 1901; owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

CR IV - "Church Records." 1886-1911.

SR I - Society Records, 1853-1953.



## TOPSFIELD (C).

Although the church was gathered on Nov. 4, 1663, there is a long-standing tradition of two earlier pastorates. If William Knight was indeed ordained here in 1641,<sup>1</sup> some argument could be made for the existence of a gathered church at Topsfield in that year. Conclusive evidence of such a church's existence, however, is lacking. Knight apparently did preach at Topsfield from 1641 to 1651, and returned to England in 1655 where he died in 1694/95. Similarly, Capt. William Perkins served as a supply preacher at Topsfield from 1655 until the gathering of the church in 1663 (and possibly preached occasionally from then until his death in 1682).

The precinct (frequently denominated "the Precinct at the Hamlet") was incorporated in 1713, and the Congregational Parish in 1824.

Ministers:	Thomas Gilbert	(ord. 1663; disp. 1671; d. 1673)
	Jeremiah Hobart	(ord. 1672; disp. 1680; d. 1715)
	Joseph Capen	(ord. 1684; d. 1725)
	John Emerson	(ord. 1728; d. 1774)
	Daniel Breck	(ord. 1779; rem. 1788; d. 1845)
	Asahel Huntington	(ord. 1789; d. 1813)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Isaac Cummings	(d. 1677)
	Thomas Howlett	(d. 1678)
	Thomas Perkins	(e. 1676 ?; ord. 1684; d. 1686)
	Isaac Cummings	(e. 1686; ord. 1693; d. 1721)
	Nehemiah Abbot	(e. 1686; ord. 1693; d. 1707)
	Sgt. Thomas Dorman	(e. 1701; d. 1716)
	Ens. Samuel Howlett	(e. 1701; d. 1720)
	John Howlett	(e. 1723; d. 1735)
	Lt. Daniel Redington	(e. 1716; res. 1729; d. 1732)
	Jacob Peabody	(e. 1729; d. 1749)
	Lt. Ivory Hovey	(e. 1735; d. 1759)
	George Bixby	(e. 1749; d. 1783)

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 121-122.



John Gould	(e. 1767; d. 1778)
Maj. Joseph Gould	(e. 1778; res. 1799; d. 1803)
Stephen Foster	(e. 1778; d. 1791)
Solomon Dodge	(e. 1781; res. 1797; d. 1812)
John Gould, Jr.	(e. 1797; d. 1820)
Daniel Bixby	(e. 1799; d. 1825)

There are no records antedating 1684; the extant records are owned by the church and kept at the Town Hall.

CR I - Church Records, 1684-1725.

VS I - John H. Gould (ed.), "Early Records of the Church in Topsfield," EIHC, XXIV (1887), 181-205. Vital statistics, 1684-1725; town votes, 1680-1684. Offprinted Salem, 1888.

CR II - Church Records, 1726-1870.

VS II - H. G. Dannel (ed.), "List of Members of the Old Church, Topsfield," NEHGR, XVI (1862), 212-215. 1684-1751, incomplete.

VS III - George F. Dow (ed.), "Baptismal Records of the Church in Topsfield," EIHC, XXXI (1894-1895), 1-42 [1727-1779], XXXII (1896), 28-46 [1799-1841]. Reprinted THSHC, I (1895), II (1896).

CR PUB - "Records of the Congregational Church in Topsfield," THSHC, XIV (1909), 1-87. 1684-1800, omitting vital statistics.<sup>1</sup>

PR I - Parish Records, 1824-1878.

PR II - Parish Records, 1879-1911.

See also The Confession of Faith and Covenant of the Congregational Church in Topsfield, Adopted March 27, 1859, Together with a List of the Members of the Church, Jan. 1, 1884 (Salem, 1884); Sidney Perley, "Topsfield," History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men, ed. D. Hamilton Hurd (Philadelphia, 1888), II, pp. 972-988; "The Seating of the Meeting House, 1762 and 1771," THSHC, VII (1901), pp. 90-104.

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1. Some of these vital statistics appear in THSHC, IX (1903).



TOWNSEND, First Parish (U), extinct.  
First Church (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 16, 1734. In 1830 the orthodox wing of the church withdrew, and soon after organized an affiliated society.

The Unitarian contingent steadily declined in strength, and after 1838 was unable to support a settled minister. In 1852 the meetinghouse was sold to local Methodists. The interests of the Orthodox Society and that of the First Parish were united in the First Parish Religious Society incorporated in 1884; this latter body was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1916.

Ministers: Phinehas Hemenway (ord. 1734; d. 1760)  
Samuel Dix (ord. 1761; d. 1797)  
David Palmer (ord. 1800; diss. 1830;  
d. 1849)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Stevens (e. 1734; d. 1738)  
Isaac Spaulding (e. 1734; d. 1776)  
Samuel Clark (e. 1738; d. 1783)  
Jonathan Stow (e. 1763; d. 1780)  
Richard Wyer (e. 1773; d. 1812)  
James Hosley (e. 1778)  
Jonathan Wheelock (e. 1782)  
Daniel Adams, Jr. (e. 1782; d. 1827)

The records are owned by the surviving church, and are kept in the cellar vault of the local town hall. There are no church records for the Unitarian body following the split, although prudential records for both the Unitarian and orthodox groups are extant.

CR I - Church Records, 1734-1800.

CR II - "The Church's Book." 1800-1821, with vital statistics to 1836.

VS II - Samuel Stone's Book. Vital statistics, 1800-1843.

CR III - "Orthodox Church: Clerk's Book." 1830-1878.

CR IIIA - Ministerial Records, 1831-1881.

PR I - "Parish Records." Unitarian parish, 1830-1880.

SR I - "Brick Meetinghouse Records." Largely accounts relating to building of the orthodox meetinghouse, 1830-1834.

SR II - MISSING, Orthodox Society Records, 1834-1871.

SR III - "Orthodox Congregational Church Records -- Benevolences (1871-1901), Treasurer of the Society (1897-1916), Incorporated Church Records (1916-1949)."

Miscellaneous records: two vols. Parish Treasurer's Accounts (badly charred by fire); two vols. Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1830-1861, 1863-1880.

TOWNSHIP NO. 4 (see Becket, First, Chester).

TRURO, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 1, 1711.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers:	John Avery	(ord. 1711; d. 1754)
	Caleb Upham	(ord. 1755; d. 1786)
	Jude Damon	(ord. 1786; d. 1828)

Ruling elders:	Thomas Mulford	(e. 1727; ord. 1728)
	Deacon Constant Freeman	(e. 1727; ord. 1728)
	Deacon John Snow	(e. 1727; deposed)
	Deacon John Meyrick	(e. 1728)
	Thomas Paine	(e. 1728) <sup>2</sup>

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 275, lists this as an extinct Unitarian church. No evidence has been found, however, to justify Weis' claim.

2. The Truro ruling eldership, created in 1726, was abolished in 1755.



Deacons:	Hezekiah Purington	(e. 1711; d. 1718)
	Constant Freeman	(e. 1718; elev. to ruling elder 1727 and ord. 1728)
	John Snow	(e. 1718; elev. to ruling elder 1727; deposited)
	John Meyrick	(e. 1727 and ord. 1728; elev. to ruling elder 1728)
	Moses Paine	(e. 1727 and ord. 1728; d. 1764)
	Jonathan Vickery	(e. 1728)
	Humphrey Purington	(e. 1742; res. 1746)
	Barnabas Paine	(e. 1742; deposited 1766; d. 1768)
	Mulford Eldredy	(e. 1742)
	Joshua Freeman	(e. 1750; d. 1795)
	Anthony Snow	(e. 1766)
	Ephraim Harding	(e. 1775)
	Jonathan Snow	(e. 1796)
	Anthony Snow, Jr.	(e. 1802)

The extant records to 1900 consist in two items, owned and held as described below.

CR I - Church Records, 1709-1832. Owned by the church and deposited with the Town Clerk.

CR I PUB - George E. Bowman, "Truro, Mass., Church Records," MD, IX (1907), 53-58, 74-77, 175-178, 243-246, X (1908), 41-43, 149-152, XI (1909), 19-22, XVII (1915), 235-239, XVIII (1916), 48-55, XXVI (1924), 119-128, 161-170, XXVII (1925), 12-21, 71-79, 109-117, 155-168, XXVIII (1930), 17-26, 54-64, 120-127, 153-160, XXIX (1931), 34-38, 130-137, 163-171, XXX (1932), 28-36, 53-58, 105-109, 156-161, XXXI (1933), 29-33, 54-59.

CR I MIN - Ministerial Records, 1755-1788. Owned and held by the First Congregational Church, Malden, Mass.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1832-1900.

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1. This book, comprising part of the estate of Rev. Caleb Upham, was recovered by his father, Ruling Elder Ebenezer Upham of Malden's Second Church. The elder used the back of the book for his own records. When the Second Church merged with Malden's First Church in 1792, the book became the possession of the latter church.



TYNGSBORO, First Parish (U).

In 1755, Dunstable<sup>1</sup> was divided into First and Second Parishes, and two years later a church was gathered in the Second Parish (modern Dunstable).

The First Parish became the town of Tyngsboro in 1789, and on Nov. 30, 1789 the church with which we have to do was gathered there. The First Parish in Tyngsboro was incorporated in 1834.

Minister: Nathaniel Lawrence (ord. 1790; res. 1839;  
d. 1843)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Jonathan Bancroft (e. 1790; d. 1815)  
John Farwell (e. 1790; d. 1838)

The extant records to 1900 consist<sup>2</sup> in two items and a copy, owned and held as described below.

CR I - "Nathaniel Lawrence, -- Ordained January 6 1790." 1789-1939. Owned and held by the church.

CR I COPY - "Records of the First Parish Church in Tyngsborough. 1790-1839. Book 1. Church Proceedings." Undated typescript copy, owned and held by the church.

PR I - MISSING, Parish Records, 1755-1803.

PR I COPY - "Records of The First Parish of Dunstable from June 10th 1755 to Nov. 3rd 1788, and of the [District, later] Town of Tyngsborough from July 20th 1789 to Feb. 14th 1803. Copied from Original Records in 1881 by Louville Curtis." Owned and held by Mrs. Catharine W. Lambert, Tyngsboro Historical Society.

1. A church had been gathered at Old Dunstable in 1685, but in 1741 the area (and church) was set off to New Hampshire. For an ill-fated attempt to gather a church at Dunstable in 1747, see "DUNSTABLE, Separate (C), extinct."

2. The church officers believe that the 19th century records of the church and parish, together with some of the church silver, were placed in the keeping of some bank in the area by a former church officer. At the time this inventory was made, the missing items had not been located.



TYRINGHAM, First Church and Society (see Monterey).

UPTON, First (C).

The church was gathered in August of 1735. The First Parish received incorporation in 1834. Short-lived was the organization known as the Stockholders of the Congregational Meeting-house Society, begun in 1848, for after financing the building of a new meetinghouse in 1853, the Stockholders were disbanded.

The church itself was incorporated in 1898, at which time the parish was dissolved.

Ministers:	Thomas Weld	(ord. 1738; disp. 1744; d. 1755)
	Elisha Fish	(ord. 1751; d. 1795)
	Benjamin Wood	(ord. 1796; d. 1849)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early church records, the information on this church's diaconate is fragmentary.

Samuel Nelson	(e. before 1740; d. 1750)
Samuel Warfield	(e. before 1740; d. 1782)
Jonas Warren	(m. 1757-1778)
Jacob Hill	
James Bradish	(e. after 1757)
James Bradish, Jr.	
John Warfield	(e. after 1778)

The church records antedating 1857 have been lost for many years; the extant items are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1735-1857.

CR II - "Records." 1857-1926.

VS I - "American Church Register." Admissions to church and congregation, 1799-1887.

VS II - "The American Church Register." Vital statistics, 1882-1919.



PR I - "Records." Parish records, 1834-1886.

PR II - "Parish Records Upton." 1887-1898.

Miscellaneous records: Stockholders Records, 1848-1853; Pew Deeds, 1849-1850.

See also Benjamin Wood, A Centennial Address, Delivered at Upton, Mass., June 25, 1835 (Boston, 1835); Benjamin Wood, A Sermon Delivered at Upton . . . June 1, 1846, being the Day which Completed Fifty Years from the Time of his Induction into the Pastoral Office over the Church and People of that Place (Worcester, 1846); Benjamin Wood, Sermons of Rev. Benjamin Wood (Boston, 1850); Manual of the First Congregational Church, Upton, Mass. 1877 (Worcester, 1877); Addresses Delivered at the Celebration of the One Hundred and Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the First Congregational Church, Upton, Massachusetts November Tenth Nineteen Hundred and Ten (Boston, 1910); 1735 - June 25 - 1935. Upton, Massachusetts. This Book Sponsored by Descendents of Four Friends in the Town's Second Century (Upton, 1935); Manual of the First Congregational Church Upton, Massachusetts (n.p., 1936); Manual of the First Congregational Church Upton, Massachusetts (n.p., 1954). See also the mimeographed item owned and held by the church: Marjorie D. Taft, "History of the First Congregational Church, Upton, Massachusetts 1735-1960 225th Anniversary June 11-12, 1960."

[UPTON, Unitarian Church (B/U).]

According to one authority,<sup>1</sup> a Baptist church organized in Upton in 1770, at a later (unspecified) date became Unitarian. The actual sequence of events requires some brief exposition.

A Baptist church was gathered in Upton in 1751, and Abraham Bloss<sup>2</sup> was ordained its minister that same year. After

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 275.

2. Also given as "Blois" and "Boise."



Bloss' removal from Upton in 1767, the church drifted uncertainly until 1770, when it was reorganized<sup>1</sup> by an "Elder Bois." It was sufficiently stable to settle a minister in 1790, but after his removal was reduced to hearing occasional supply preachers.

In 1824 a new Baptist church was gathered; its leaders, however, were affiliated with the "Christian" movement. In 1847, this church merged its interests with those of the First Unitarian Society, just then come into being. The present Unitarian Church of Upton dates, then, from 1847.

See the bibliography given under UPTON, First; also see Charles W. McGehee, A History: First Unitarian Society, Upton, Massachusetts, 1847-1959 (n.p., 1960).

#### UXBRIDGE, First Congregational Society (U).

The church was gathered on Jan. 6, 1731. The First Congregational Society was incorporated in 1797.

Ministers:	Nathan Webb	(ord. 1730/31; d. 1772)
	Hezekiah Chapman	(ord. 1774; dism. 1781; d. 1794)
	Josiah Spaulding	(ord. 1783; dism. 1787; d. 1823)
	Samuel Judson	(ord. 1792; dism. 1832; d. 1832)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Edmund Rawson	
	Samuel Chapin	(m. 1744)
	Samuel Read	(m. 1746-1794)
	Joseph Damon	(m. 1760; d. 1762)
	John Spring	(m. 1767-1784)
	Nicholas Baylies	(e. 1783; m. 1815)
	Gershom Taft	(e. 1783; m. 1804)

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1. Weis, loc. cit., identifies this reorganization as the gathering of a new Baptist church.



The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the First Church of Uxbridge. 1730-1833." Vital statistics, 1730/31-1833; church records, 1772-1833.

CR II - "First Congregational Society Uxbridge, Massachusetts." (Flyleaf: "Records of The First Congregational Church In Uxbridge, Massachusetts - Commencing, January 7, 1833.") 1833-1886, with vital statistics to 1945.

SR I - "First Congregational Society, (Unitarian) Act of Incorporation as of June 23, 1797. Records of Annual Meetings June 23, 1797 to April 23, 1849."

SR II - "First Congregational Society, (Unitarian) Records of Annual Meetings April 29, 1852 to April 4, 1923."

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1797-1885; Society Treasurer's Order Book, 1797-1849; Accounts of Expenses of Building the Meeting House, 1834; Pew Deeds, 1835-1860.

See also Frank L. Bristol, One Hundred and Sixty-One Years; or A History of the Evangelical Congregational Church, otherwise known as the First Church of Christ in Uxbridge, Mass. (Uxbridge, 1891); Cyrus A. Roys, A Sketch of the History of the First Congregational Society of Uxbridge, Massachusetts (n.p., ca. 1960).

#### WAKEFIELD, First (C).

Reading was settled in 1639, and its (First) church was gathered on Nov. 5, 1645.

In 1713, the residents of northern Reading successfully petitioned to become a separate precinct. Reading's Second Church was gathered here in 1720, and in 1853 this northern precinct became the town of North Reading, and its church the First in that town.

In 1770, the settlers of southern Reading gathered their own church, Reading's Third (West) Church.



The remainder of Reading (exclusive of North Reading)<sup>1</sup> was divided in 1868 into the towns of Reading and Wakefield. Wakefield carried with it the 1645 church, the church with which we now have to do.

The First (South) Parish of Reading is traditionally dated from 1644. From 1812 to 1868 it was known as the First Parish of South Reading, and after 1868 as the First Parish of Wakefield. The Trustees of the South Parish Ministerial Fund, incorporated in 1823, disbanded ca. 1847.

Ministers:	Henry Greene	(ord. 1645; d. 1648)
	Samuel Haugh	(ord. 1650; d. 1662)
	John Brock	(ord. 1662; d. 1688)
	Jonathan Pierpont	(ord. 1689; d. 1709)
	Richard Brown	(ord. 1712; d. 1732)
	William Hobby	(ord. 1733; d. 1765)
	Caleb Prentice	(ord. 1765; d. 1803)
	Reuben Emerson	(ord. 1804; d. 1860)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Zachariah Fitch <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1645; d. 1662)
	John Person	(cta. 1679)
	Thomas Kendall	(d. 1681)
	Thomas Parker I	(d. 1683)
	William Cowdry	(d. 1687)
	Benjamin Fitch	(e. 1690; d. 1713)
	Thomas Bancroft	(cta. 1718)
	John Damon	(d. 1708)
	Thomas Boutell	(e. 1707; ord. 1708; cta. 1737)
	Capt. Thomas Nichols	(e. 1712; cta. 1737)
	Lt. John Pearson	(e. 1712)
	Francis Smith I	(e. 1722; d. 1744)
	John Goodwin	(e. 1722; cta. 1757)
	John Smith	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1734; cta. <u>ca.</u> 1746)
	Raham Bancroft	(e. 1737; cta. 1758)
	Nathaniel Stow	(e. 1737; cta. <u>ca.</u> 1737)
	Capt. Kendall Parker	(e. 1738; cta. 1755)

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1. From 1812 to 1868, the church bore the title of First Church in South Reading.

2. See Ezra S. Stearns, "The Descendents of Dea. Zachary Fitch of Reading," NEHGR, LV (1901), 288-291, 400-407, LVI (1902), 41-47.



Capt. Thomas Nichols II	(e. 1738; cta. 1745)
Brown Emerson	(e. 1746; cta. 1774)
Jonathan Temple	(e. 1746; dism. and rem. 1770)
Capt. Benjamin Brown I	(e. 1753)
Samuel Bancroft, Jr.	(e. 1758; dism. and rem. 1770)
John Smith	(e. 1770; cta. 1782)
Jacob Emerson	(e. 1774; cta. 1811)
John Bacheller	(e. 1774; dism. and rem. 1777)
Capt. Benjamin Brown, Jr.	(e. 1779; cta. 1801)
Francis Smith, Jr.	(e. after 1784; cta. 1799)
Ebenezer Hopkins	(e. 1790; cta. 1796)
Thomas Parker, Jr.	(e. 1796; cta. 1822)
Oliver Swain	(e. 1796)
James Hartshorne	(e. 1803; cta. 1824)

The records are owned by the church, and held as indicated below. Not listed below, but helpful are "Extracts from the Diary of Rev. Jonathan Pierpont," NEHGR, XIII (1859), 255-258, and portions of the diary of Rev. Richard Brown in Lilley Eaton, Genealogical History of the Town of Reading (Boston, 1874), pp. 53-55.

CR I COPY - "Church Records of the Old Town of Reading, Massachusetts, and of the First Parish of Reading and South Reading, from 1648 to 1846." Typescript copy made in 1934, copies at the public libraries in Wakefield, Reading and North Reading.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - Church Records, 1804-1896. Largely vital statistics. Kept at the church office.

PR I COPY - "Records of the First Parish of Reading, Massachusetts, from April 1722 to December 1812." Typescript copy made in 1934, copies at the public libraries in Wakefield, Reading and North Reading.

PR II COPY - "Records of the First Parish of Reading, Massachusetts, from February 8, 1813 to January 16, 1844." Typescript copy made in 1934, copies at the public libraries in Wakefield, Reading and North Reading.

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1. The original record books, CR I, PR I and PR II, reportedly deposited at a local bank, were not made available for this study. The copies appear to be complete.



See the bibliographical entries for READING and NORTH READING; also Lilley Eaton, "List of Early Settlers of Reading and South Reading, Mass., from 1640 to 1700," NEHGR, II (1848), 46-50; Manual of the Congregational Church, Wakefield, Mass. January 1, 1871 (Boston, 1871); Charles R. Bliss, Wakefield Congregational Church. A Commemorative Sketch. 1644-1877 (Wakefield, 1877). See two typescript volumes, compiled 1935 by William E. Eaton et alii, "Historical Sketch of Ancient Reddin, Massachusetts," owned and held by the public libraries in Wakefield, Reading and North Reading.

[WALES (C).]

The West Parish in the District of South Brimfield (which in 1828 became the town of Wales) was incorporated in 1766; however, no Congregational church was gathered here until 1819.

WALPOLE, First (U), extinct.

The church was gathered on July 2, 1730. The Unitarian controversy saw the orthodox Congregationalists withdrawing from the church and parish in 1826 to form the Second or Orthodox Congregational Church and Society. In 1927, these two churches merged with a local Methodist group to form The United Church of Walpole.

Ministers:	Joseph Belcher	(called 1726; dism. 1729; d. 1773)
	Phillips Payson	(ord. 1730; d. 1778)
	George Morey	(called 1783; dism. 1826 from active ministry but retained title; d. 1829)

Ruling elders: none.



Deacons: Samuel Kingsbury (e. 1730)  
 Ebenezer Fales (e. 1731)  
 Ezekiel Robbins (e. 1744; d. 1771)  
 Joseph Fisher (e. 1747; m. 1758)  
 Joshua Clapp (e. 1762)  
 Benjamin Kingsbury (e. 1774)

The church records antedating 1826 were reported lost in 1929;<sup>1</sup> the one extant book of records is owned and held by The United Church of Walpole.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1730-1826.<sup>2</sup>

CR II - "Record." 1826-1892, with vital statistics to 1902.

Miscellaneous records: church records of the orthodox Congregational and Methodist churches of the town.

See also James A. Dupee, "Walpole, Massachusetts. Family Names in the Assessment Rolls from 1761 to 1778," NEHGR, XXXVI (1882), 362-366; A Service Commemorating the Ministry of Rev. Phillips Payson, One of the Early Ministers of Walpole (Norwood, 1904); Isaac N. Lewis, A History of Walpole, Mass. from Earliest Times with Illustrations (Norwood, 1905); Isaac N. Lewis, Addresses on Sir Robert Walpole and Rev. Phillips Payson, Men Prominent in the Early History of Walpole, Mass. (n.p., 1905); Willard DeLue, The Story of Walpole, 1724-1924 (Norwood, 1925); Alton C. Roberts, typescript "The Story of Our Church," owned and held by the Congregational Library, Boston; Alton C. Roberts, Our Church and Its Ancestors: The United Church of Walpole, Massachusetts, 1927 - October 25 - 1962 (Foxborough, 1962).

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1. See Dana W. Robbins' typescript "Walpole Historical Notes," 1929, owned and held by the Walpole Public Library.

2. A fragment concerning the gathering of the church is contained in "Extract from the Earliest Church Record in Walpole, Mass.," NEHGR, XX (1866), 12.



WALTHAM, First Parish (U/U).  
First Church (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Feb. 4, 1696<sup>1</sup> in the West Precinct of Watertown, although the precinct was not formally incorporated until 1698. In 1738, the precinct became the town of Waltham, its First Parish was organized, and the church was renamed Waltham's First Church.

A Second Religious Society, organized in Waltham in 1820, almost immediately divided into orthodox and Unitarian wings. The latter body retained the title of Second Religious Society, while the orthodox styled<sup>2</sup> themselves the "First Congregational Church" of Waltham.<sup>2</sup> Lack of support forced this "First Church" to dissolve in 1840.

Meanwhile, in 1838 a merger was effected between the Second Religious Society and the First Parish. Until 1866, the body was called the Independent Congregational Society; then it voted to take the name of the First Parish in Waltham. More recently, this First Parish was joined to the First Universalist Society, the emergent body being styled the First Parish Universalist-Unitarian. Simultaneously, the church of the First Parish was joined to the Universalist Church of Our Saviour.

Ministers: Samuel Angier (inst. 1697; d. 1718/19)  
Warham Williams (ord. 1723; d. 1751)  
Jacob Cushing, D.D. (ord. 1752; d. 1809)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Deacon Stephen Cook<sup>3</sup> (e. 1697; d. 1714)

1. The date is sometimes given as Nov. 27, 1696. E.g., Hamilton A. Hill, History of the Old South Church (Third Church) Boston, 1669-1884 (Boston, 1890), I, p. 408; Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns and Counties," Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897, II (Boston, 1898), p. 185.

2. The 1696 church, of course, simply styled itself the Church of the First Parish.

3. Cooke was a deacon at Mendon before transferring his membership to Watertown's First Church in 1689. There is no evidence of his having served as a Watertown deacon, prior to his joining the church at Waltham.



Capt. John Warren	(e. 1697; d. 1703)
Ens. John Morse	(e. 1697; d. 1702)
Jonathan Sanderson	(e. 1703; d. 1735)
Benjamin Pierce	(e. 1703; d. ca. 1718)
Joseph Mixer	(e. 1718; d. 1723)
Thomas Livermore	(e. 1718; res. 1756)
Jonathan Sanderson	(e. 1724; d. 1743)
William Brown	(m. 1725; d. 1756)
Thomas Hammond, Jr.	(m. 1741-1743)
Jonathan Sanderson	(m. 1745; res. 1778; d. 1790)
Capt. Samuel Livermore, Esq.	(e. 1743-1744; d. 1773)
Isaac Stearns	(e. 1756; res. 1778; d. 1779)
Elijah Livermore	(e. 1773; rem. 1780)
Amos Brown	(e. 1778; d. 1812)
John Sanderson	(e. 1778; d. 1819)
John Clark	(e. 1780; d. 1799)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - Church Records, 1697-1718.

CR II - Church Records, 1723-1751. Largely vital statistics.

VS I MAR - Marriage Records, 1723-1751.

CR III - Church Records, 1752-1809.

VS II MAR - Marriage Records, 1752-1809.

CR IV - "Waltham Church Records." 1809-1841.

CR V - "Church Records, First Parish, Waltham." 1841-1920.

CR V DUP - Church Records, 1838-1902.

PR I - "Parish Records." 1821-1840.

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Sacramental Expense Accounts, 1743-1818, 1820-1841; Parish Committee Records, 1865-1885, 1886-1902; Pew Deeds, 1839-1861.

Records of the Universalist Society and the Church of Our Saviour are held by the City Clerk, Waltham.

See also several typescript items owned and held by the First Parish Universalist-Unitarian: Edmund L. Sanderson



and Elizabeth D. Castner, "The First Parish in Waltham: An Anniversary History"; "The Deacons of the Waltham First Parish Church, 1696-1840"; "The Meeting-house of the First Parish in Waltham and its Predecessors."

WARD, Church and First Religious Society (see Auburn).

WARE, First (C).

The church was gathered on May 9, 1751, and was originally known as the church in Ware River. The parish, organized in 1742, was dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1895.

Ministers:	Grindall Rawson	(ord. 1751; dism. 1754; d. 1794)
	Ezra Thayer	(ord. 1759; d. 1775)
	Benjamin Judd	(ord. 1785; dism. 1787; d. <u>ca.</u> 1835)
	Reuben Morse	(ord. 1792; d. 1809)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Jacob Cummings	(e. 1751; res. 1768; d. 1776)
	John Davis	(e. 1751; res. 1768)
	Maverick Smith	(e. 1768; d. 1789)
	Thomas Jenkins	(e. 1768; accepted 1771; res. 1789; d. 1792)
	William Paige	(e. 1789; accepted 1790; res. 1815; d. 1826)
	Daniel Gould	(e. 1789; accepted 1790; res. 1815; d. 1834)

The church building and parsonage are located in Old Ware; the records are reportedly kept there, but the only person having access is the pastor emeritus who visits the town



briefly once each year. The item listed below is owned and held by the Young Men's Library Association, Ware.

CR I COPY - "Records of the First Congregational Church 1751 Ware, Mass." 1751-1825. Typescript copy, made in 1909 by Roland Sawyer, of the church's running records; vital statistics omitted.

See also David N. Coburn, An Historical Discourse, Delivered at Ware, 1851 (West Brookfield, 1851); Historical Sketch, Confession of Faith, Covenant and Rules, of the First Congregational Church in Ware, with A Catalogue of Its Members (Ware, 1869; rep. and updated Ware, 1909); Augustus B. Reed, Historical Sermon Delivered at Ware First Parish, on Thanksgiving Day, Dec. 2d, 1830 (rep. n.p., 1889); Arthur D. Chase, History of Ware, Massachusetts (Cambridge, 1911); Roland D. Sawyer, An Historical Sermon Preached in The First Church in Ware, Mass. on August 5, 1951 (Ware, 1951).

#### WAREHAM, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 25, 1739. Church and town came to a parting of the doctrinal ways in 1827, the heart of the quarrel being the orthodox minister's refusal to exchange pulpits with Unitarian clerics.

To protect the minister from dismissal by the town, the orthodox (comprising a majority of the church membership) organized an Evangelical Society. The Unitarians in rebuttal structured the First Parish.

With the dismissal of the minister in 1828, the two prudential bodies found less to divide them, and were eventually reunited, continuing as a single entity until dissolution in 1890, the year of the church's incorporation.

Ministers:	Rowland Thacher	(ord. 1739; d. 1775)
	Josiah Cotton	(ord. 1775; dism. 1779; d. 1819)
	Noble Everett	(ord. 1782; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Ebenezer Hamlin	(e. 1739; cta. 1742)
	Joshua Gibbs	(e. 1739; cta. 1765)



John Ellis	(e. 1742; cta. 1749)
Jonathan Hunter	(e. 1742; cta. 1749)
William Blackmer	(e. 1748)
Ebenezer Bourne	(e. 1761; cta. 1763)
John Norris	(e. 1763; cta. 1779)
Noah Fearing	(e. 1782)
Andrew Mackie	(e. 1784)
Timothy Crocker	(e. 1798)

There are no church records antedating 1800; the extant records are owned by the church and deposited with a local bank.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1739-1800.

CR II & CR III - Bound as one volume: (a) "This Book of church records begins with the year 1800." 1800-1819.  
(b) "#2 Property of the Wareham Congregational Church 1772-1843 1932." 1820-1844.

CR IV - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Church Records 1844.") 1844-1891.

CR V - "Records." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Congregational Church Wareham, Mass.") 1892-1928.

PR I - "Letters." (Flyleaf: "Records of the first Parish in Wareham.") 1828-1890.

See also "Topography and History of Wareham, 1815," MHSC, 2nd Ser., IV (1816, rep. 1846), 285-296; Confession of Faith and Covenant of the First Congregational Church of Wareham, Mass. (Boston, 1858); David L. Bodfish (ed.), History of the First Congregational Church, Wareham, Massachusetts, and Auxiliary Bodies 1739-1939 (n.p., 1939).

WARE RIVER, Church (see Ware).

WARREN, Federated (C).

The church was gathered in 1743 as the Church in Western. Its Congregational Society was organized in 1824. Western became the town of Warren in 1834, and the church and society were appropriately renamed. In 1927, the First Church federated with local Methodist and Universalist churches.

Ministers: Isaac Jones (ord. 1744/45; d. 1784)  
Stephen Baxter (ord. 1791; dism. 1804; d. 1846)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early records, the list is incomplete.

Isaac Bliss	(m. 1791-1798)
Thomas Rich	(m. 1791)
Lt. Abner Tyler	(e. 1791; res. 1798; m. 1810)
James Brown	(e. 1798; m. 1806)
David Burroughs	(e. 1798; m. 1808)
William Brown	(m. 1806)

The church records antedating 1791 were reported lost in 1878;<sup>1</sup> the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1743-1791.

CR II - "Church Records, from March 9th 1791 to May 6th 1836."

CR III - "Church Record." "Second Book Church Records. Commencing Nov. 23, 1836. Ending Jun. 10, 1866."

CR IV - Church Records, 1867-1926.

VS I - Vital Statistics, 1791-1907.

SR I - "Western Congregational Society Records." 1824-1847.

SR II - "Congregational Society, Warren." 1847-1899.

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1. See Declaration of Faith, Covenant and By-Laws of the Congregational Church in Warren, Mass., with an Historical Sketch and a Catalogue of the Members, from 1791 to 1878 (Warren, 1878).



Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1880-1898; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1884-1889; Society Prudential Committee Records, 1891-1920.

WARWICK, First Parish and Religious Society (U).

The church was gathered on Dec. 3, 1760. The Trustees of the Congregational Society were incorporated in 1779; however, in 1795 the act of incorporation was repealed, and then one section of the repealing act itself repealed in 1800. The Society appears to have suspended operations from 1795 to 1834.

In 1906, church and society were incorporated as the First Parish and Religious Society of Warwick.

Ministers: Lemuel Hedge (ord. 1760; d. 1777)  
               Samuel Reed (ord. 1779; d. 1812)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early records, the list is incomplete.

Charles Woods<sup>1</sup>  
   Silas Town<sup>1</sup>  
   James Ball (m. 1778-1802)  
   Caleb Mayo (m. 1787-1829)

There are no extant church records antedating the present century, except for one church treasurer's book.

SR I - "A Book of Records for the Congregational Society in Warwick - Given by Nathan Capron of Richmond - 1772." 1778-1795.

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1. See Preserved Smith, Half-Century Discourse. A Sermon, Delivered in Warwick, Mass., Oct. 12, 1864, It Being the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Author's Ordination as Pastor of the First Congregational Church and Society in That Town (Greenfield, 1864).

SR II - MISSING, Society Records, 1795-1834.<sup>1</sup>

SR III - Society Records, 1834-1870.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1784-1864; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1834-1883, 1893-1909; Society Certificate Book, 1827-1834; Pew Proprietors Records, 1837-1846.

See also Jonathan Blake, History of the Town of Warwick, Massachusetts, From its First Settlement to 1854 (Boston, 1873).

WASHINGTON (C), extinct.

The church was gathered in 1772 in the area then known as Hartwood, which five years later became the town of Washington. The Congregational Society appears to have been organized about 1846.

In 1863, the members of this church united with the other Protestants of the town to form the Union Church of Washington.

Minister: William Gay Ballantine (ord. 1774; d. 1820)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Jesse Ladd, Sr. (e. 1783; res. 1788)  
           Jabez Cornish (e. 1783)  
           Thomas Martin (e. 1799; m. 1804)  
           Jasper Brewster (e. after 1796; m. 1803)

The records are owned by the town, and held by the Town Clerk, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Record - Congregational Church to 1869." 1772-1863; records of the Union Church, 1863-1869.

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1. Either no records were kept during this period, or else they have long since disappeared.



CR I COPY - Rollin H. Cooke, "Washington, Mass." Copy made in 1898-1902, owned and held by the Berkshire Athenaeum (Cooke Collection), Pittsfield.

SR I - MISSING, Society Records, 1846-1859.

SR I COPY - Society Records, 1846-1859. Included in CR I COPY, pp. 228-235.

See also Manual of the Union Church in Washington, Mass., Organized December 23, 1863 (Pittsfield, 1865).

#### WATERTOWN, First (U).

The church was gathered on July 30, 1630. When the town was divided into two precincts in 1697, this church was located in the East Precinct. In 1738, the West Precinct became the town of Waltham; then the 1630 church took the title of Church of the First Parish of Watertown. The Trustees of the Watertown Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1812, the First Parish itself in 1835.

Ministers:	George Phillips	(ord. pastor 1630; d. 1644)
	John Knowles	(ord. colleague 1639; rem. 1651; d. 1685)
	John Sherman	(ord. 1647; d. 1685)
	John Bailey	(ord. 1686; rem. 1692; d. 1697)
	Thomas Bailey	(ord. 1687; d. 1688/89)
	Henry Gibbs	(sett. 1690; ord. 1697; d. 1723)
	Seth Storer	(ord. 1724; d. 1774)
	Daniel Adams	(ord. 1778; d. 1778)
	Richard R. Eliot	(ord. 1780; d. 1818)

Ruling elders: Elder Richard Browne<sup>1</sup> (e. 1630; dism. from office 1632; m. 1656)

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1. A ruling elder in England, Browne was elected to serve here in the same capacity. He quickly attracted attention by his views on taxation and his stated belief that the churches of Rome were "true churches." He was dismissed from church office in 1632, ostensibly because of "his unfitness in regard of his passion and distemper in speech, having oft been admonished and declared his repentance for it." See James K. Hosmer (ed.), Winthrop's Journal (New



Edward Howe<sup>1</sup> (m. 1634; d. 1644)  
 Thomas Carter<sup>1</sup> (e. 1639-1641; rem. 1642;  
 d. 1684)

Deacons: Simon Eire<sup>2</sup> (m. 1647-1650)  
 Deacon Simon Stone<sup>3</sup> (arrived 1635; d. 1665)  
 Thomas Hastings<sup>4</sup>  
 Henry Bright, Jr. (d. 1686)<sup>5</sup>  
 William Bond (m. 1687; d. 1724)  
 Simon Stone (m. in local politics  
 1678-1690)<sup>6</sup>  
 John Stone (m. in local politics  
 1674; d. 1691)<sup>6</sup>  
 Capt. Nathaniel Barsham (m. 1699; d. 1716)

York, 1908), I, pp. 66, 71, 95. If they considered him too much of a firebrand to hold church office, Watertownians were only too happy to have Browne represent them at the General Court, sending him frequently on that errand up through the year 1656.

1. DEDHAM, First, CR PUB I, 16, 25. The Dedham church disqualified Carter from nomination to the ruling eldership in 1638, on the grounds that he was about to be chosen to that post by the Watertown church. A letter from the Watertown church officers to the Dedham church under date of 1641 identifies Carter as a ruling elder. However, in 1642 he became minister of the church at Woburn.

2. See Richard C. Simmons, "Freemanship in Early Massachusetts," WMQ, 3rd Ser., XIX (1962), 426.

3. See David H. Brown, "Dea. Simon Stone of Watertown, Mass., and Some of His Descendents," NEHGR, LIII (1899), 345-350.

4. Whether there were one or two Watertown deacons by this name is unclear. BOSTON, Third, CR PUB, p. 159, mentions a Deacon Hastings of Watertown under date of Feb. 16, 1669/70. The will of a Deacon Thomas Hastings was proved in 1685. Watertown town records, however, mention a Deacon Thomas Hastings living there in 1687.

5. "Deacon Bright carrying home chairs, &c. used at Mr. Baylys [ordination], is hurt by his Cart none seeing, so that he dyes Oct<sup>r</sup> 9. Satterday. It seems he was the only Officer left in that Church." "Diary of Samuel Sewall. 1674-1729," MHSC, 5th Ser., V (1878), 153.

6. These were the sons of the first Deacon Simon Stone.



Nathan Fiske	(m. 1717; d. 1740/41)
John Coolidge	(m. 1717; d. 1755)
Joseph Mason	(e. 1726; d. 1755)
Joseph Coolidge	(e. 1741; d. 1749)
Samuel Fiske	(e. 1749)
Capt. John Tainter	(e. 1761)
Nathaniel Stone	(e. 1777)
Jedidiah Leathe	(m. 1793-1800)
Daniel Whitney	(m. 1793; d. ca. 1802)
Col. Moses Coolidge	(e. 1802; d. 1838)
Col. Amos Bond	(e. 1805; d. 1817)

There are no church records antedating 1686;<sup>1</sup> the extant records are owned by the church and deposited with a local bank.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1630-1686.

CR II - "Rev. John Bailey Book, 1668 [sic]-1818." 1686-1818.

CR II PUB - Watertown Historical Society, Watertown Records Comprising East Congregational and Precinct Affairs 1697 to 1737 Also Record Book of the Pastors 1686 to 1819 (Boston, 1906). Vital statistics and some church votes, together with precinct records; omitted are the lengthy records of sermons entered in the original record by the Rev. Mr. John Bailey.

CR III - "Church Book." 1819-1947.

See also Convers Francis, An Historical Sketch of Watertown, in Massachusetts, from the First Settlement of the Town to the Close of Its Second Century (Cambridge, 1830); Henry Bond, Family Memorials: Genealogies of the Families and Descendents of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Massachusetts, including Waltham and Weston; to which is Appended the Early History of the Town (Boston, 1855), 2 vols.; William T. Harris, Epitaphs from the Old Burying Ground in Watertown (Boston, 1869); Charles A. Nelson, Waltham, Past and Present, and Its Industries. With An Historical Sketch of Watertown from Its Settlement in 1630 to the Incorporation of Waltham, January 15, 1738 (Cambridge, 1879); Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the First Parish of Watertown, Mass. Sunday, November 28, 1880 (Boston, 1881); William H. Savage, "Annals of an Ancient Parish," NEM, New Ser. VI - Old Ser. XII

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1. See CR II PUB, "Preface," where it is stated that these records could not be found in 1906.



(1892), 237-255; Solon F. Whitney, Historical Sketches of Watertown, Mass. (Watertown, 1893); Henry W. Foote, Mr. George Phillips, First Minister of Watertown (Boston, 1930); Henry D. Locke, An Ancient Parish: An Historical Summary of the First Parish, Watertown Mass<sup>ts</sup> (Boston, 1930); G. Frederick Robinson and Ruth R. Wheeler, Great Little Watertown: A Tercentenary History (Cambridge, 1930); Mosetta I. Vaughan, The Meeting Houses of the First Congregational Society of Watertown, Massachusetts (n.p., 1942).

WATERTOWN, Third (C), extinct.

This church had a clandestine existence for some months during 1720-1721, before it made public its intention of ordaining Robert Sturgeon as its minister.<sup>1</sup>

At the request of the ancient Watertown church, an ecclesiastical council met on Feb. 27, 1722. It advised that Sturgeon's church<sup>2</sup> had been gathered contrary to that act of the General Court which earlier had divided Watertown into eastern (Watertown) and western (Waltham) precincts, so that to ordain Sturgeon would be out of the question. When the Third Church refused to accept this advice, a second council was convened on May 1, 1722, at the behest of the Watertown First (East) and Second (West) Churches. This time, the Third Church was pressed so strenuously to disband, that Sturgeon's dismissal was obtained, ending the church's career for all practical purposes.

Sturgeon, however, did continue to exercise ministerial functions for some short time thereafter; the Watertown First Church records tell of his baptizing a child after the May 1, 1722 council.<sup>3</sup>

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1. REVERE, CR I, pp. 18ff.

2. Since the church in the West Precinct of Watertown (later Waltham) was Watertown's second church, Sturgeon's church is properly designated as the Third Church.

3. WATERTOWN, CR II, p. 129.



Minister: Robert Sturgeon (sett. 1721; dism. by ecclesiastical council 1722; rem. 1726 ?; d. after 1743)

There being no extant records of this church, nothing is known of its lay officers.

See the bibliography for WATERTOWN, First.

WATERTOWN, East Precinct and Church (see Watertown, First).

WATERTOWN, Farmer's Precinct and Church (see Weston).

WATERTOWN, Second Church (see Waltham).

WATERTOWN, West Precinct and Church (see Waltham; also see Weston).

## WAYLAND, First Parish (U).

The ancient church at Sudbury was gathered in August of 1640, and its associated Precinct on the West Side of the River was incorporated in 1708. The development of a second center of population in 1722 led to the organization of an East (Second) Parish, and on Feb. 11, 1723 to the division of the ancient church into two independent bodies: the West Church (now Sudbury) and the East Church (now Wayland).

The first trace of friendly rivalry for the right to the 1640 date appeared in 1765, when the West Church voted itself "the First Church in Sudbury," because the "standing part of the ancient church had formed a church in the East Parish."<sup>1</sup> The East Church replied in 1780, denominating itself the First Church in East Sudbury; when the area became the town of Wayland in 1835, the name of First Church and Parish of Wayland was adopted.

In 1815, the Trustees of the East Sudbury Ministerial Fund received<sup>2</sup> incorporation, as did the First Parish of Wayland in 1836.<sup>2</sup>

Ministers:	Edmund Brown	(ord. 1640; d. 1678)
	James Sherman	(ord. 1678; dism. 1705; d. 1718)
	Israel Loring	(ord. 1706; remained with West [Sudbury] Church 1723; d. 1772)
	William Cooke	(ord. 1723; d. 1760)
	Josiah Bridge	(ord. 1761; d. 1801)
	Joel Foster	(inst. 1803; d. 1812)

Ruling elders: none.<sup>3</sup>

Deacons:	Edmund Rice	
	William Brown	(m. 1649)
	----- Haines	(m. 1669)
	Joseph Noyes	(m. 1705-1706)
	James Haines	(m. 1705-1723)

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1. SUDBURY, CR I, p. 217.

2. See Sudbury entry for further discussion of the churches' claims to the 1640 date.

3. Sumner C. Powell, Puritan Village: The Formation of a New England Town (New York, 1965), p. 1, refers to one of the founders of Sudbury, Peter Noyes, as a "church elder," but provides no documentation for that claim.



Edmund Rice	(m. 1705-1706)
Matthew Stone	(e. 1718)
John Clap	(e. 1719; m. 1723)
John Moore	(m. 1723; cta. 1747)
. . . . .	
Robert Cutting	(m. 1803-1804)
[Samuel Griffin	(m. 1809; d. 1813)]

The pre-1704 records of the ancient church, with the exception of some vital statistics, have long been lost.<sup>1</sup> Records for the years 1704-1723 are owned and held by the Sudbury church, unless otherwise noted.

The Wayland church has no extant records for the years 1723-1803, holding only a book of church records for 1803-1888 and a parish record book for 1850-1910.

CR I - "Church Records of Sudbury. 1st Parish. 1704." Vital statistics, 1640-1873, and church votes, 1705, 1724-1873; lacuna, 1834-1866.

VS I COPY A - Church Records, largely vital statistics, being a MS copy of the earlier entries in CR I.

VS I COPY B - "Church Records of Sudbury 1st Parish 1704." MS copy of CR I. Owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1723-1803.

CR III - Church Records, 1803-1888. Votes chiefly concerned with ministerial settlements; vital statistics with many lacunae.

PR I - "Records of The First Parish in Wayland. 1850." 1850-1910.

See also [Israel Loring], "Memoir of Sudbury," MHSC, 1st Ser., X (1809, rep. 1857), 86-88; "A Topographical Description and Historical Account of East Sudbury [Wayland], in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including its Ecclesiastical History," MHSC, 2nd Ser., IV (1816, rep. 1846), 60-63; Alfred S. Hudson, The History of Sudbury,

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1. A "Summary History" printed in 1832, a copy of which is pasted on the inside cover of CR I, states that in that year, the only surviving church records for the years 1640-1705 consisted in fragmentary vital statistics.



Massachusetts. 1638-1889 (Boston, 1889); Alfred W. Cutting, An Historical Address Delivered in the First Parish Church, Wayland, Mass. Sunday, June 25, 1911 (Boston, 1911); William L. Raymond, The First Parish, Wayland, Massachusetts, 1640-1940 (n.p., 1940; abstracted and printed in The Wayland Chronicle, XXVIII, iii (Jan. 19, 1940); John C. Power and Carl Scovel, "The History of the First Parish in Sudbury," mimeographed item, copy owned and held by the Sudbury church.

#### WELLESLEY (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 6, 1798 as the Church in West Needham, the West Precinct in the Town of Needham having been incorporated in 1778. The Society was organized in 1864.

In 1881, the precinct became the town of Wellesley, and the name of the church and society were accordingly changed. The church itself was incorporated in 1891.

Minister: Thomas Noyes (ord. 1799; dism. 1833; d. 1837)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Daniel (e. 1799; res. 1805)  
 William Bigelow (e. 1799; res. 1812)  
 Asa Kingsbury (e. 1805; res. 1849)

The extant records commence in 1833, and are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1798-1833.

CR II - "Records of the Church of Christ in the West Parish in Needham." 1833-1897.

VS I - George K. Clarke, "Baptisms Recorded by the Ministers, or Clerks, or the Church in the West Precinct of Needham, 1798-1849," DHR, XII (1901), 70-74, 115, 123. Includes vital statistics other than baptisms.



VS II - George K. Clarke, "Baptisms Recorded by Deacon Augustus Fuller, Clerk of the Church in the West Precinct of Needham, 1849-1861," DHR, XIII (1902), 111-112.

CR III - "Records: Wellesley Congregational Church." 1897-1930.

See also A Manual for the Congregational Church in West Needham (Boston, 1859); Edward H. Chandler, The History of the Wellesley Congregational Church (Boston, 1898).

#### WELLFLEET (C).

The area, originally known as "Billingsgate," was made the North Precinct of Eastham in 1723. The church was gathered in the same year, although the exact date is in dispute.<sup>1</sup> The Third or North Parish appears to have been organized about 1735.

In 1763, the precinct was made the town of Wellfleet, and the name of the church and parish were appropriately altered.

Ministers: Josiah Oakes (ord. 1723; rem. 1727; d. 1733)  
 Isaiah Lewis (ord. 1730; d. 1786)  
 Levi Whitman (ord. colleague 1785; dism. 1808; d. 1838)

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 277, argues for July 29, 1723, the time of the first minister's ordination. Enoch Pratt, A Comprehensive History, Ecclesiastical and Civil, of Eastham, Wellfleet and Orleans, County of Barnstable, Mass. From 1644 to 1844 (Yarmouth, 1844), argued nearly a century earlier that the church properly should be dated Sept. 23, 1730, the day of the second minister's ordination; the same argument was advanced by Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod (Boston, 1860-1862), II, p. 661.

It being unlikely that Josiah Oakes would have been ordained over a non-existent church in 1723, we can only conclude that Pratt and Freeman mistake a reorganization of the 1723 church for the gathering of a new church.



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Elisha Doane	(e. 1730; m. 1735)
	John Rich	(m. 1735; d. 1747)
	Hezekiah Doane	
	Reuben Rich	(m. 1761-1763)
	----- Gross	(m. 1785-1786)
	Jonathan Higgins	(m. 1808; d. 1821)
	Josiah Rich	(m. 1808; d. 1817)

The records antedating 1808 cannot be found;<sup>1</sup> the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1723-1808.

CR II - "Records of the Congregational Church in Wellfleet." 1808-1845.

CR III - MISSING, Church Records, 1845-1879.

CR IV - Church Records, 1879- .

See also "A Topographical Description of Wellfleet," MHSC, 1st Ser., III (1794, pub. 1810), 117-126; The Articles of Faith and Covenant . . . [of] the First Congregational Church in Wellfleet (Yarmouth, 1838); Manual of the First Congregational Church in Wellfleet, Mass. (Wellfleet, 1864).

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1. Several attempts to locate the early Wellfleet church records have proved unavailing. Reported extant in 1889 (Carroll D. Wright, Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties [Boston, 1889], p. 12), they have since dropped from view. One local tradition has it that they have been destroyed; another theory is reported by Emil Oberholzer, Jr. in Delinquent Saints (New York, 1956), p. 352: "The Wellfleet records have come into the possession of a woman who has no title to them but refuses to permit even the minister to consult them."



## WENDELL (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 30, 1774.<sup>1</sup> The First Congregational Parish was organized in 1821; the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund received incorporation in 1823.

Minister: Joseph Killburn (ord. 1783; d. 1816)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: James Ross, Jr. (e. 1780; res. and rem. 1790)  
 Jonathan Osgood (e. 1781; res. 1808; d. 1812)  
 Nathan Brewer (e. 1790; res. 1827; d. 1832)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the First Church in Wendell. Vol. I." 1774-1847.

CR II - "Records of the First Church in Wendell Vol. 2." 1847-1910.

Miscellaneous records: Diaconal Charitable Accounts, 1837-1936; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1822-1838, 1854-1896, 1896-1921; Ministerial Fund Trustees Records, 1823-1946; Ministerial Fund Treasurer's Accounts, 1823-1875.

## WENHAM (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 8, 1644. Eleven years later, the minister and seven church members removed to Chelmsford, establishing a new church there, and leaving an undetermined

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 277, gives the date of Nov. 20, 1774. W. H. Beaman, in Centennial Celebration of the Congregational Church, Wendell, Mass., Wednesday, December 2, 1874 (Amherst, 1875), p. 7, points out, however, that the council invited to superintend the church's gathering met at Shutesbury on Nov. 29, 1774, and that the church covenanted the next day.



number of church members behind in Wenham.

Evidence points to a reorganization of the Wenham church on Dec. 10, 1663, but not necessarily to a beginning de novo.<sup>1</sup> The Congregational Parish and Society in Wenham was organized in 1833, and dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1925.

Ministers:	John Fiske	(ord. 1644; rem. to Chelmsford 1655; d. 1676/77)
	Antipas Newman	(ord. 1663; d. 1672)
	Joseph Gerrish	(ord. 1674/75; d. 1719/20)
	Robert Ward	(ord. 1721/22; d. 1732)
	John Warren	(ord. 1733; d. 1749)
	Joseph Swain	(ord. 1750; d. 1792)
	Adoniram Judson	(inst. 1792; diss. and rem. 1799; d. 1826)
	Rufus Anderson	(inst. 1805; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Esdras Reade	(e. 1644; res. and rem. 1655; m. 1661)
	Edward Kempe	(e. 1655; res. and rem. 1655; m. 1660)
	William Geare	(e. ca. 1660; d. 1672)
	James Moulton, Sr.	(e. 1674; d. ca. 1698)
	William Fiske	(e. 1679/80; d. 1728)
	John Gilbert	(e. ca. 1700; d. 1722)
	James Friend	(e. 1702/03; d. 1718)

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 277, sees two distinct churches at Wenham, the first becoming extinct ca. 1660, and the second being gathered in 1663. Some evidence for this is supplied by CR I GERRISH, which contains what copyist Joseph Gerrish describes as "A copy of the written Covenant made & consented to at the gathering A chh & ordeining the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr: Antipas Newman their pastor in Wenham."

However, Gerrish made his transcription at least twelve years after the event to which he was not an eye-witness, and there is no guarantee that he was not mistaken about the nature of what took place. Indeed, the transcription may have been made much more than twelve years after the event, and without benefit of any eye-witness testimony.



Ephraim Kimball	(e. 1716; d. 1732)
John Friend	(e. 1718; d. 1718)
Daniel Dodge	(e. 1729; d. 1740)
William Fairfield	(e. 1731; d. 1742)
Ebenezer Fiske	(e. 1739; d. 1771)
Jonathan Kembal	(e. 1742; d. 1758)
Jonathan Kembal, Jr.	(e. 1758; res. 1769)
Ebenezer Waldron	(e. 1758; d. 1768)
Samuel Tarbox	(e. 1760; d. 1784)
John Friend, Jr.	(e. 1777; d. 1785)
Caleb Kimball	(e. 1777; d. 1800)
Stephen Dodge	(e. 1786; d. 1816)
William Dodge	(e. 1805; d. 1824)

The records are owned by the church and deposited at the Town Hall, unless otherwise noted.

CR I FISKE - "John Fisk's note-book." Minister's record of church affairs: Salem, 1637-1640; Wenham, 1644-1655; Chelmsford, 1655-1675. Owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem.

CR I FISKE COPY - "Rev. John Fiske's note-book 1637-1675." Typescript copy, largely dependent on earlier transcriptions made by Pulsifer and Greene. Owned and held by the Essex Institute.

CR I FISKE PULSIFER-POOLE COPY - "Records of the First Church in Wenham, kept by the Rev. John Fisk, Pastor, 1644-1655, copied from the original in accordance with a Vote of the Town, by David Pulsifer; indexed by Wellington Poole." Copy made in 1882.

CR I - "Records of the Congregational Church, Wenham, Mass., 1643-1805. Vol. I." Early copy of Fiske records (1644-1655); original church records, 1663-1805.

CR I COPY - Copy of CR I, made in 1879 by Wellington Poole.

CR I GERRISH - "An Account of the Acts & transactions & votes of the church of Wenham, since I came thither, Joseph Gerrish." 1674-1718. Owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

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1. Catalogued as "Wenham, Mass. Church Record Book."

VS I GERRISH PUB - William B. Trask, "Records of the Congregational Church in Wenham, Mass.," NEHGR, LXI (1907), 330-338, LXII (1908), 34-48. Vital statistics from CR I GERRISH.

CR II - Church Records, 1792-1847.

CR III - "Records of the Church in Wenham . . . from Oct. 1847 to Sept. 1856." 1847-1874.

CR IV - "Wenham Cong. Church Record, 1870-1890."

CR V - Church Records, 1890-1900.

PR I - "A Record of the first Parish and Society in Wenham, Vol. I." 1833-1879.

PR II - "Records of the First (Congregational) Parish and Society in Wenham, Mass., Vol. II." 1879-1901.

Miscellaneous records: the Congregational Library, Boston, owns and holds a MS item entitled "Old Church Records preserved. Antient Records of the Chh. in Wenham transcribed from old books." This consists in extracts from 17th century town records, 18th century church records, and the complete vital statistics of the church for 1805-1813.

WENHAM (see Chelmsford).

WEST AMESBURY, Church (see Merrimac).

WEST BARNSTABLE, Church and Parish (see Barnstable).



WESTBORO, First Congregational Society (U).  
The (Evangelical) Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 28, 1724; the First Congregational Parish or Society was organized in 1825. In 1834, the church (dominated by orthodox Congregationalists) separated from the parish, saw to the organization of an Evangelical Society, and took the name "Evangelical Church." The parish church having lost most or all of its members in the separation, it was considered dissolved. Worship services were held, however, until 1850 when the Unitarians of the First Congregational Society reconstituted the First Congregational Church. In 1880, this church and its society were unified under the name of the First Congregational (Unitarian) Society.<sup>1</sup>

Ministers: Ebenezer Parkman (ord. 1724; d. 1782)  
John Robinson (ord. 1789; disp. 1807;  
d. 1832)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Fay	(e. 1727)
	Isaac Tomlin	(e. 1727; d. 1745)
	Jonathan Forbush	(e. 1738; d. 1756)
	Josiah Newton	(e. 1738; d. ca. 1755)
	Jonathan Bond	(e. 1755; res. 1780)
	Jonathan Forbush, Jr.	(e. 1755; d. 1768)
	Simon Tainter	(e. 1757; d. 1767)
	Benjamin Wood	(e. 1767; res. 1790)
	James Hawes	(e. 1780; res. 1813)
	Edmund Brigham	(e. 1790; res. 1804)
	Daniel Chamberlain	(e. 1805; res. 1823)

The records are owned by the First Congregational Society, and with the two exceptions noted below, are kept in the church building.

Not listed below, but worthy of note (and quoted in the thesis) are the following: Harriette M. Forbes (ed.), Eben. Parkman's Book: 1737, 1779-1780. Diurna or An Account of the Remarkable Transactions of Every Day (Worcester, 1899); Francis G. Walett (ed.), "The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman," AASP, LXXI (1961), 93-277, 361-448, LXXII (1962), 31-233, 329-481.

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1. Both the Congregational and the Unitarian churches of Westboro lay claim to the founding date of 1724.



CR I - "Records of the Church of Christ in Westborough." 1724-1808. At the Town Hall.

CR II - "Westborough Church Records 1808 to 1835 Rev. Elisha Rockwood Pastor Records of Baptisms Marriages Deaths." (Flyleaf: "Church Records, 1808.") 1808-1836. At the Town Hall.<sup>1</sup>

CR III - "Records of the First Congregational Church in Westborough, Formed August 11th. A.D. 1850." 1850-1882.<sup>2</sup>

SR I - "Book of Records for the Congregational Society. Westborough, March 1825." 1825-1881.

SR II - "Records of the First Congregational Society Westborough, Mass. March 7th 1882 to ." 1882-1918.

Miscellaneous records: Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1826-1896, 1896-1946; Society Collectors Records, 1874-1895.

Since the (Evangelical) Congregational Church of 1834 lies outside the scope of this inventory, it needs only to be remarked that its records from that date to the present are complete.

WESTBORO, Second Precinct (see Northboro).

WEST BOSTON Church and Society (see Boston, Ninth Church).

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1. Because the church was considered dissolved during the years 1835-1850, there are no church records for this period.

2. After the unification of church and society in 1880, the records of these merged organizations were kept as a single narrative, i.e., SR II.



WEST BOXFORD (see Boxford, West).

WEST BOYLSTON (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 15, 1796 as the Church in the Second Precinct of Boylston, Sterling and Holden, four years after the precinct itself was set off. In 1808 the precinct was made the town of West Boylston, and the First Congregational Parish was organized.

Minister: William Nash (ord. 1797; dism. 1814; d. 1829)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Israel Moore (e. 1796; d. 1807)  
 Josiah Beaman (e. 1796; res. and rem. 1805)  
 Amariah Sawyer (e. 1805; m. 1808)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records, 1796." 1796-1834.

CR II - "Church Records, Vol. 2." 1834-1869.

CR III - "Church Records." 1870-1916.

PR I - DESTROYED BY FIRE, Parish Records, 1808-1862.

PR II - "Parish Records." 1862-1917.<sup>1</sup>

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1. The church also owns and holds a parallel volume of records of the "Religious Society," 1830-1902.

WEST BRADFORD, Proprietors of Meeting House (see Haverhill, Bradford).

WEST BRIDGEWATER, First Congregational-Unitarian Church (U).

Made a town in 1656, Bridgewater originally contained present-day Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and West Bridgewater. The oldest church in the area was gathered in what is now West Bridgewater on Feb. 18, 1664.

In 1716 the original town was divided into duly incorporated parts: the North Precinct (containing the church of 1664) and the South Precinct (modern Bridgewater, where the first church was gathered in 1718).

A division of the North Precinct in Bridgewater was effected in 1723: the East Precinct (now East Bridgewater, where a church was gathered in 1724) and the West Precinct (in which the 1664 church was located). In 1822, this West Precinct was made the town of West Bridgewater.

Ministers:	James Keith	(ord. 1663/64; d. 1719)
	Daniel Perkins	(ord. 1721; d. 1782)
	John Reed, D.D.	(ord. 1780; d. 1831)

Ruling elders and deacons: due to the loss of the church's records, virtually nothing is known of the lay officers of this church.

Ruling elder: William Brett (d. 1682)

Deacons:	John Willis	(contemporary with William Brett) <sup>1</sup>
	Nathaniel Brett	(d. 1779)

All records, with the three exceptions noted below, are reported as destroyed by fire many years ago.

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1. See PLYMOUTH, CR PUB I & CR PUB II, 108-109.



SR I & SR II - MISSING, Society Records to 1862.<sup>1</sup>

SR III - "Book No. 3. Records of the First Congregational Society in West Bridgewater. from March 18th 1862 to April 5, 1954." Owned and held by the church.

See also "A Description of Bridgewater, 1818," MHSC, 2nd Ser., VII (1826), 137-176; "James Cary His Book 1770," MD, XXXII (1934), 156-162.

WEST BRIDGEWATER, Separatist (C), extinct.

A New Light separation resulted in the gathering of a Separatist church in this place on Jan. 8, 1749. Its membership was absorbed by the Baptist movement in the town, following the removal of the Separatist pastor in 1751.

Minister: Samuel Hyde (ord. 1749; rem. 1751; d. ca. 1770)

See Mary L. and Winifred L. Holman, "Reverend Samuel Hide and Some of his Descendents," NEHGR, XCVI (1942), 214-231; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 277; C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 312.

WEST BROOKFIELD (C).

The facts concerning the origins of the present Brookfield and West Brookfield churches have been sufficiently

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1. Claimed as town property by a former town clerk, since deceased, who reportedly deposited them in a basement vault in the West Bridgewater Town Hall. The present town clerk states that the vault and its contents are inaccessible.



misrepresented to warrant detailed treatment here.<sup>1</sup>

Old Brookfield was incorporated as a town in 1673, and its church was gathered in 1717, the latter event being delayed that long by recurrent troubles with the Indians.<sup>2</sup> In 1750, a Second (or North) Precinct was set off, and a (second) church gathered there in 1752. (In 1812, this Second Precinct would be incorporated as the town of North Brookfield; the 1752 church is so listed in this inventory.)

Meanwhile, troubles arose in the First (or old) Precinct of Brookfield over the location of the meetinghouse. The old meetinghouse had been situated at Foster's Hill in the western part of the old precinct (*viz.*, in what today is the town of West Brookfield). In 1753, personnel from the southern part of the old precinct began razing the old building with an eye to replacing it with a new edifice on Brookfield Common (*viz.*, in what today is the town of Brookfield). The Foster's Hill group appealed to the General Court, and that august body intervened.

By order of the Court (Nov. 8, 1754), the old (or First) precinct was divided into two parts. The new (western) precinct was to retain the name and powers of the First Precinct of Brookfield, - although when incorporated as a town in 1848, it was given the town name, "West Brookfield!" It is with this latter town and its church (gathered in 1717) that we now have to do.<sup>3</sup>

Ministers:	Thomas Cheney	(ord. 1717; d. 1747)
	Elisha Harding	(ord. 1749; dism. to the new church in modern Brookfield 1755; d. 1784)
	Joseph Parsons, Jr.	(ord. 1757; d. 1771)
	Ephraim Ward	(ord. 1771; d. 1818)

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1. The culprit appears to have been the Rev. Thomas Noyes, minister (1799-1833) of Needham's Second Church (now Wellesley's First Church), whose notions have misled historians ever since the appearance of his article in *CQ*, X (1837-38), 48, 53-54. See Charles B. Tolman, An Historical Sermon Delivered in The First Church of Christ (of the Old Town of Brookfield) at West Brookfield, Mass. Sunday, September 18, 1910 (Ware, Mass., 1911).

2. Mention should be made of a local tradition of a "church" (actually a meetinghouse) at Foster's Hill, *ca.* 1667-1715, served by occasional preachers John Younglove, Joseph Smith, George Phillips, William Grosvenor, John James, and David Elmer. See Henry E. Waite, "Early History of Brookfield, Mass.," *NEHGR*, XXXV (1881), 333-341.

3. The new (southern) precinct created in 1754 was denominated the Third Precinct; when the Second Precinct achieved townhood in 1812, the Third became the Second Precinct. To complete the confusion, when the First Precinct was incorporated in 1848 as the town of West Brookfield, the Second Precinct inherited the ancient, uncluttered name of "Brookfield," - although the church there had not been gathered until 1756.



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Henry Gilbert	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1717; d. 1740)
	John Gilbert	(e. <u>ca.</u> 1717; res. 1767; d. 1779)
	Joseph Jennings	(e. 1721; d. 1779 ?)
	Comfort Barnes	(d. 1748)
	John Cutler	(res. and rem. 1752; m. 1754)
	Jedidiah Foster	(e. 1759; res. 1776; d. 1779)
	Thaddeus Cutler	(e. 1763; res. 1767; d. 1768)
	Othniel Gilbert	(e. 1767; res. 1788; d. 1795)
	Thomas Rich	(e. 1767; res. and rem. 1773; d. 1803)
	Joseph Cutler	(e. 1776; res. 1809; d. 1825)
	Levi Gilbert	(e. 1788; d. 1816)

There are no church records antedating 1758;<sup>1</sup> the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1717-1758.

CR II - "Church Records." 1758-1818.

CR III - "Church Records. First Church in Brookfield. 1818." 1819-1867.

CR IV - "Records." 1867-1889.

CR V - "West Brookfield Congregational Church. Records, 1890-1956."

PR I - "Parish Records Begun in 1754 and Ended in 1826."

PR II - "Brookfield West Parish Records, 1826." 1826-1860.

PR III - Parish Records, 1860-1909.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1867-1904; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1817-1875.

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1. The lack of church records for the first two pastorates was early remarked by Nathan Fiske, "An Historical Account of the Settlement of [West] Brookfield," MHSC, 1st Ser., I (1792, pub. 1806), 257-275.

WEST CAMBRIDGE, West Church and Parish (see Arlington).

WEST DEDHAM, Church (see Westwood).

WESTERN, First Church and Society (see Warren).

WESTFIELD, First (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 27, 1679 in the town of Westfield (before 1669 known as "Streamfield.") The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund were twice incorporated, in 1816 and again in 1822. The First Congregational Society, organized in 1829, ceased to function after the incorporation of the church in 1944.

Ministers:	Edward Taylor	(ord. 1679; d. 1729)
	Nehemiah Bull	(ord. 1726; d. 1740)
	John Ballantine	(ord. 1741; d. 1776)
	Noah Atwater	(ord. 1781; d. 1802)
	Isaac Knapp	(ord. 1803; d. 1847)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Samuel Loomis	(e. ca. 1679; d. 1689)
	Josiah Dewey	(e. 1692; res. 1703)
	Nathaniel Weller	(e. 1692; d. 1712)
	Samuel Root	(e. 1703; d. 1712)
	David Dewey	(e. 1712; d. 1712)
	Thomas Noble	(e. 1712; d. 1750)
	David Ashley	(e. 1713; res. 1730; d. 1744)



John Shepard I	(e. 1730; d. 1756)
Eldad Taylor	(e. 1741; d. 1777)
James Dewey	(e. 1741; res. and rem. 1746; d. 1767)
Israel Ashley	(e. 1746; d. 1758)
John Shepard II	(e. 1755; d. 1783)
Joseph Root	(e. 1769; d. 1789)
Dr. Paul Whitney	(e. 1783; d. 1795)
John Ballantine	(e. 1783; res. 1785)
Joseph Dewey	(e. 1785; d. 1799)
Col. William Shepard	(e. 1789; res. 1816; d. 1817)
Joseph Root II	(e. 1796; res. 1805)
John Ballantine	(e. 1796; res. 1818)
John Crooks	(e. 1805; d. 1822)

The records are owned by the church and, unless otherwise noted, kept in the church building.

Not listed below, but worthy of note are the diaries of Edward Taylor and John Ballantine, extensively cited in John Lockwood's Westfield and Its Historic Influences, 1669-1919 (Westfield, 1922), 2 vols. Ballantine's diary for the years 1759-1774 was printed in the Westfield Journal for 1834. See also "Rev. Noah Atwater's Almanac (1782-1788)," Bartlett's Note Book, No. 2, 35-64, No. 3, rear 1-14.

CR I - "The Publick Records of the Church, Westfield, Massachusetts. 1679-1836." Held by the Westfield Athenaeum, Westfield.

CR I COPY - Church Records, 1679-1836. Held by the Westfield Athenaeum.

CR II - MISSING, Church Records, 1836-1867.

CR III - Church Records, 1867-1935.

SR I - "Records of the First Congregational Society, Westfield, Mass., 1829-1838-1883." 1829-1883.

SR II - "Records: First Congregational Society, Westfield." 1884-1950.

Miscellaneous records: Register of Church Membership, 1679-1961, recently compiled; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1829-1893, 1893-1909.



WESTFIELD, Separate (C), extinct.

This New Light church was gathered in Westfield some time in 1748, and six years later, Jedidiah Dewey was ordained its minister.

Meanwhile, Separates from Hardwick and Sunderland migrated to Bennington, Vermont, and on Dec. 3, 1762 organized the first Congregational church in that state. Soon afterward, the Bennington church issued an invitation to the Westfield New Lights to come to Vermont and join forces with them. Taking the advice of a New Light ecclesiastical council which met on Aug. 14, 1763, Dewey and his church members removed to Bennington, where Dewey became the pastor of the new church.

Minister: Jedidiah Dewey (sett. 1748; ord. 1754; rem. with the church to Bennington, Vt. 1763; d. 1778)

There being no records of the Westfield Separate Congregational Church, nothing is known of its lay personnel. See Isaac Jennings, Memorials of a Century. Embracing a Record of Individuals and Events chiefly in the Early History of Bennington, Vt. and Its First Church (Boston, 1869; Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), pp. 240, 277; C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), pp. 108, 318.

WESTFORD, First Parish Church United (U).

The church was gathered on Nov. 15, 1727 as the West Church in Chelmsford, the West Precinct having been set off in 1724. In 1729, the precinct became the town of Westford. The parish was organized in 1826.

Ministers: Willard Hall (ord. 1727; dism. 1775 [by the town] and 1776 [by the church] for Toryism; d. 1779)



Jesse Read	(sett. 1776; rem. 1778) <sup>1</sup>
Matthew Scribner	(ord. 1779; dism. 1789; d. 1813)
Caleb Blake	(ord. 1792; dism. 1826; d. 1847)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Comings	(e. 1727; d. 1759)
	Joshua Fletcher	(e. 1727; d. 1736)
	Paul Fletcher	(e. 1733; d. <u>ca.</u> 1736)
	Andrew Spaulden	(e. 1736)
	Henry Wright	(e. 1736)
	John Abbot	(e. 1762; d. 1791)
	Jonathan Fletcher, Jr.	(e. 1772; res. <u>ca.</u> 1782)
	William Hildreth	(e. 1780)
	Samuel Fletcher	(e. 1780)
	John Prescott	(e. 1782)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited as indicated below.

CR I - "The Church Book Belonging to the Second Church in Chelmsford, 1727." 1727-1866. Held by the Westford Public Library.

CR I COPY - Typescript copy, Church Records, 1727-1866, with supplementary materials. Held by the Westford Public Library.

PR I - Parish Records, 1826-1889. Held by the church.

PR II - Parish Records, 1890-1955. Held by the church.

WEST GLOUCESTER, Church (see Gloucester, Second).

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1. See Edwin R. Hodgman, History of the Town of Westford (Lowell, 1883), p. 269.

WEST GRANVILLE, Church and Parish (see Granville, West, Center).

WEST GRANVILLE, Church and Parish (Third) (see Tolland).

WESTHAMPTON (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 1, 1779.

Minister: Enoch Hale (ord. 1779; d. 1837)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Reuben Wright (e. 1779; d. 1798)  
 Martin Clark (e. 1779; d. 1823)  
 Samuel Edwards (e. 1786; d. 1842)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Westhampton Church Records, commenced AD 1817 but extending back to the formation of the Church AD 1779. Book No 1." Church records in abstract, 1779-1818; in full, 1818-1831.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "Book No. 2." 1834-1873.

CR III - "Westhampton Church Records." (Flyleaf: "Book No. 3, 1779 [sic] - 1899. A record of the Congl Church in Westhampton continued from Book No. 2." 1874-1899.

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1. The original church records, 1779-1816, were destroyed in a parsonage fire in the latter year. See Dorus Clarke, The Centennial Discourse Delivered in Westhampton, Mass., Sept. 3d, 1879, on the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Formation of the Church in that Town (Boston, 1879).



WEST MEDWAY (see Medway, Second, Federated, West).

# WESTMINSTER (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 20, 1742 as the Church in Narragansett No. 2. In 1759, this tract became the town of Westminster, and the church's name was accordingly changed.

Ministers: Elisha Marsh (ord. 1742; dism. and rem. 1757;  
d. 1784)  
Asaph Rice (ord. 1765; d. 1816)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Joseph Holden (e. 1742; d. 1768)  
Joseph Miller (e. 1742; d. 1794)  
James Walker (e. between 1751 and 1765;  
d. 1812)  
Nathan Wood (e. between 1756 and 1765;  
d. 1777)  
Moses Thurston (e. between 1765 and 1800;  
d. 1809)  
Thomas Stearns (e. 1768; d. 1785)  
Stephen Miles (e. 1797; d. 1812)

There are no church records antedating 1813; the extant records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1742-1813.<sup>1</sup>

CR II - "Records of the first Congregational Church in Westminster." 1813-1938.

See also The Confession of Faith, and Covenant of the Congregational Church in Westminster, with a Catalogue of

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1. The records of the first two pastorates are supposed to have been accidentally sold for scrap paper ca. 1860. See Doris M. Femno, typescript "History of the First Congregational Church of Westminster, Massachusetts," 1953, owned and held by the church.

Members, June, 1839 (Worcester, 1839); Manual of the Congregational Church, Westminster, Mass. Adopted, 1868 (Winchendon, 1868); A. Judson Rich, Historical Discourse Delivered on Occasion of the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Congregational Church, and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Sunday School, in Westminster, Mass., September 9, 1868 (Springfield, 1869); William S. Heywood, History of Westminster, Massachusetts (Lowell, 1893).

WEST NEEDHAM, Church (see Wellesley).

WEST NEWBURY, First (C), inactive.

The church was gathered on Oct. 26, 1698 as the Second Church in Newbury, the Second Parish having been organized in 1695. In 1711 the Second Precinct in Newbury was incorporated, and in 1820 became the town of West Newbury. The church thus became the First Church in West Newbury; the First Parish was incorporated in 1824. The parish was dissolved in 1909 at the incorporation of the church. In 1795, just prior to settling Samuel Tomb as minister, the church voted to become Presbyterian, and was taken under the jurisdiction of the Londonderry Presbytery. In 1807, it voted to return to Congregationalism. For further details regarding the churches of the Newbury-Newburyport-West Newbury area, see NEWBURY, First.

Ministers:	Samuel Belcher	(ord. 1698; cta. 1711-1714; d. 1714/15)
	John Tufts	(ord. 1714; disp. 1738; d. 1752)
	Thomas Barnard	(ord. 1738/39; disp. 1752; d. 1776)
	Moses Hale	(ord. 1751/52; d. 1779)



True Kimball (ord. 1782; dism. 1797; d. 1816)  
 Samuel Tomb (inst. 1798; dism. 1805; d. 1832)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Abraham Merrill	(e. 1699; withdrew 1713 to attend Episcopal church; dism. to Amesbury Second Church)
	Benjamin Morse	(e. 1699; m. 1714)
	Joshua Brown	(e. 1699; withdrew 1713 to attend Episcopal church)
	Caleb Moody	(e. 1716; m. 1739)
	Archelaus Woodman	(e. 1716; m. 1745)
	William Morse	(e. 1716; cta. ca. 1739)
	Thomas Chase	(e. 1726; cta. ca. 1739)
	Tristram Coffin	(e. 1731; m. 1756)
	John Worth	(e. 1731; d. 1748)
	Capt. Joseph Moulton	(e. 1741; m. 1754)
	Nathaniel Ordway	(e. 1748)
	James Brown	(e. 1751; m. 1782)
	Edmund Bailey	(e. 1756)
	Abner Bailey	(e. 1784; d. 1821)
	Thomas Huse	(e. 1784; res. and rem. 1811)
	Joseph Sawyer	(e. 1784; d. 1818)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited at a Newburyport bank, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Early record of the First Church of West Newbury." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Church in West Newbury, formerly the Second Church in "Old Newbury," from its organization, Oct. 26, 1698.") 1698-1756, 1779, 1797, 1808-1902.

VS - "Newbury Church Records," EIHC, LVIII (1922), 20-22. Admissions and dismissions, 1715-1762.

PR I - "Parish Records." 1858-1909.

Miscellaneous records (all owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem): Parish Collector's Rate Book, 1772-1811; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1771-1845, 1806-1844.

See the MS "Historical Sketch of the First Church & Parish of West Newbury, formerly The Second Church of Newbury," owned and held by the Essex Institute. An abridged version appears in the Essex North Association's Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County (Boston, 1865), pp. 375-381.



## WEST NEWBURY, Second (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 1, 1731 as the Fourth Church in Newbury, the Fourth Parish being organized in the same year. It became the Third Church and Parish in Newbury in 1764 with the setting off of Newburyport as an independent town.<sup>1</sup> In anticipation of the area containing the 1731 church and parish becoming a town, in 1819 these bodies were retitled the West Church and Parish in Parsons. However, the town (set off in 1820) received the name "West Newbury," and the church and parish therefore took the titles of the Second (West) Church and Second Parish in West Newbury. The parish was dissolved at the incorporation of the church in 1941.

Ministers:	William Johnson, Jr.	(ord. 1731; d. 1772)
	David Tappan, D.D. <sup>2</sup>	(ord. 1774; dism. to Hollis Professorship of Divinity, Harvard 1792; d. 1803)
	Leonard Woods, D.D.	(ord. 1798; dism. to pro- fessorship of divinity, Andover Seminary 1808; d. 1854)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	William Morse	(m. 1731-1745)
	Thomas Chase	(m. 1731-1745)
	John Noyes	(m. 1748-1753)
	Stephen Morse	(m. 1752)
	John Merrill	(m. 1761-1773)
	Joshua Bailey	(m. 1771-1774)
	Roger Merriam	(m. 1773)
	Samuel Tenney	(m. 1782-1804)
	John Osgood	(m. 1798)

There are no church records antedating 1832; the extant records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

CR I - "Church Record West Newbury Mass. Second Parish 1832." 1832-1899.

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1. Included in the new town of Newburyport was the Third Church of Newbury, now become the First in Newburyport.

2. About 1780, this minister changed the spelling of his last name from "Toppan" to "Tappan."



PR I - "Parish Records, 1731-1819." Owned by the church, and deposited at the local public library.

PROP I & PR II - Proprietors Records, 1857-1867; Parish Records, 1867-1941. Owned by the church, and deposited at the local public library.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors' Rate Books (owned by the church and deposited at the local public library), 1808, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1823, 1839, 1841 (two books), 1842, 1843, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853-1854, 1855, and three undated books; Parish Assessors' Accounts (similarly owned and held), 1731-1845, 1845-1857; Subscription List (similarly owned and held), 1881-1885; Parish Treasurer's Accounts (owned and held by the Essex Institute, Salem), 1765-1791; Pew Rental Accounts (Essex Institute), 1816-1840.

See the Essex North Association's Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County (Boston, 1865), pp. 381-385.

WEST NEWBURY, West Church (see West Newbury, Second).

WEST NEWTON (see Newton, Second, West).

WESTON, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on Nov. 2, 1709 as the Church in the West (Farmers') Precinct of Watertown. The precinct,

which had been set off in 1698, became the town of Weston in 1713, at which time the church's name was duly changed.

Ministers:	Joseph Morse	(sett. 1701; res. 1706; d. 1732)
	William Williams	(ord. 1709; dism. 1750; d. 1760)
	Samuel Woodward	(ord. 1751; d. 1782)
	Samuel Kendal, D.D.	(ord. 1783; d. 1814)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Capt. Josiah Jones	(e. 1710; d. 1714)
	John Parkhurst	(e. 1710; res. 1741; d. 1764)
	Benjamin Brown	(e. 1715; res. and rem. 1746; d. 1753)
	Deacon John Cheney	(adm. to membership 1724; rem. 1730)
	Ens. John Warren	(e. 1733; d. 1745)
	Nathaniel Allen	(e. 1745; d. 1772)
	Abijah Upham	(e. 1745; d. 1775)
	Thomas Upham	(e. 1767; d. 1780)
	Thomas Russell	(e. 1767; d. 1792)
	Samuel Fiske	(e. 1780; d. 1813)
	Isaac Hobbs	(e. 1780; d. 1813)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records - Weston 1709-1743." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Parish, Weston, 1709 to 1743, With later notes.")

CR I COPY - "The 1st Book of Church Records for Weston." MS copy made by Frank W. Bigelow in 1876.

CR II - "Second Book of Records, First Parish, Weston, 1744-1815." (Flyleaf: "The 2d: Book of Church-Records, for Weston, 1744.")

CR II COPY - "The 2nd Book of Church Records for Weston." MS copy made by Frank W. Bigelow in 1876.

CR III - "Church Records, 1815." 1815-1849, with vital statistics to 1859.

In addition to the entries made in the running records of the church, there is a series of miscellaneous volumes of vital statistics:



VS I - "Record of Marriages and Deaths Kept by Rev. Samuel Woodward, 1751 to 1781 to 1786."

VS II - "Doc[tor] Ken[dall]. Death Rec[ords]." 1784-1856.

VS III - Miscellaneous Death Records, 1788-1865.

VS IV - "Deaths - Rev. Dr. Field." 1814-1833.

VS V - Baptismal Records, 1815-1857.

VS VI - "Births & Baptisms & Bonds Genealog." 1815-1847.

VS VII - "Record of Marriages by the Rev. Joseph Field. 1815-1864."

VS VIII - "Ordinations." As attended by Weston delegates, 1818-1864.

VS IX - Miscellaneous Death Records, 1852-1865.

CR PUB - Town of Weston, Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1707-1850. 1703-Gravestones-1900. Church Records, 1709-1825 (Boston, 1901). Incorporates virtually all of the above-cited records and vital statistics to 1825.<sup>1</sup>

FR I - "Parish Record." 1825-1889.

PR II - "Records: First Parish, Weston." 1890-1924.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Collector's Records, 1834-1880, 1882-1924; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1826-1925, 1831, 1872; Parish Membership Statistics, 1879-1953; Records of the Building of a New Meeting House, 1884-1886.

WESTON, Second Precinct (see Lincoln).

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1. Omitted items are noted in the "Introduction," p. iv: "The church records during this time and a few later entries . . . have been printed in full with the exception of certain cases of public acknowledgment [of sin] and the details of two cases of church discipline."

WESTON, CONCORD AND LINCOLN, Church in the Precinct set off from (see Lincoln).

WEST ROXBURY (see Boston, West Roxbury).

WEST SPRINGFIELD, First (C).

The church was gathered on June 16, 1698 as the Church in the Second (West) Precinct in Springfield, the precinct having been incorporated two years earlier. When the precinct became the town of West Springfield in 1774, the name of the church, as well as of its now-parish, was changed. The Trustees of the Ministerial Fund in the First Parish received incorporation in 1820.

A dissident group split off from the First Church in 1871, forming the Park Street Church; however, in 1909, the two churches merged as one.

Ministers:	John Woodbridge	(ord. 1698; d. 1718)
	Samuel Hopkins	(ord. 1720; d. 1755)
	Joseph Lathrop, D.D.	(ord. 1756; d. 1820)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	John Barber	(e. 1700; d. 1712)
	Ebenezer Parsons	(e. 1700; d. 1752)
	Joseph Ely	(e. 1712; d. 1755)
	John Ely	(e. 1712; d. 1758)
	Samuel Day	(e. 1748; d. 1773)
	Joseph Maverick	(e. 1750; d. 1792)
	Nathaniel Atchinson	(e. 1759; res. 1782; d. 1801)
	Jonathan White	(e. 1759; res. 1782; d. 1805)
	Peletiah Bliss	(e. 1782; d. 1828)
	John Bagg	(e. 1783; d. 1809)



There are no church records antedating 1819; the extant church records are owned and held by the church. The parish records, an unusually complete set, are held by the town clerk of West Springfield.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1698-1819.

VS I - "First Congregational Church of West Springfield or (sometimes called) First Church of West Springfield." Membership, 1721-1869.

CR II - "Church Records and Registry, First Congregational Church, 1819-1852." (Flyleaf: "Records of The First Church in West Springfield.")

VS II - "Registry, First Congregational Church. Records Lost 1694-1720. Membership 1819-1888, Baptisms 1835-1849. Book 2."

CR III - "Church Records and Registry, First Congregational Church. Admissions 1855-1891, Dismissions, 1855-1890, Infant Baptisms, 1855-1891, Deaths 1857-1891. Book 3." Running records, 1855-1860.

CR III COPY & CR IV - "Records of The First Congregational Church, West Springfield, March, 1855." 1855-1892.

CR IV - "Registry and Annual Reports, First Congregational Church. Memberships, 1892-1913, Annual Reports, 1893-1913. Book 4." Running records, 1893-1913.

VS III - "Registry, First Congregational Church. Membership 1856-1928, Baptisms 1914-1928, Marriages 1922-1927. Book 5."

PR I - Parish Records, 1707-1786.

PR II - "Parish Records." 1785-1837.

PR III - "Records of the First Parish in West Springfield, from March 1837 to April 1894."

Miscellaneous records: the church holds nine volumes of miscellaneous church and parish reliquiae, collected in 1952. The town clerk holds the following miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1774-1794, 1794-1850; Parish Order Books, 1792-1837, 1837-1855, 1850-1883.

See also Robert Breck, Past Dispensations of Providence called to Mind. In a Sermon, Delivered in the first Parish in Springfield, on the 16th of October 1775, Just one hundred Years from the burning of the Town by the Indians (Hartford, Ct., 1784); Manual of the First Congregational Church, West Springfield, Mass., and Catalogue of Members of the Church, September, 1858 (Northampton, 1858); William B. Sprague, A Discourse Delivered in The First Congregational Church in West Springfield, August 26, 1869 (Albany, N.Y., 1869); Lyman H. Bagg, "Early Settlers of West Springfield. Transcribed from the Parish Records of the First Congregational Church," NEHGR, XXIX (1875), 283-289, XXX (1876), 50-56; The Church Book of the First Congregational Church in West Springfield, Mass., and Catalogue of Members (Springfield, 1884); Beatrice B. Littlefield, History of the First Parish and the First Congregational Church of West Springfield, Massachusetts (n.p., 1948).

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Fourth Parish (see Agawam).

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Ireland Parish, Church (see Holyoke).

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Second Church (see Agawam).

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Third Church and Parish (see Holyoke).



## WEST STOCKBRIDGE, First (C).

The church was gathered on June 4, 1789, and its Religious Society was incorporated in 1794. At the present time, it is yoked with the Village Congregational Church of West Stockbridge.<sup>1</sup>

Minister: Oliver Ayers (ord. 1793; disp. 1807; d. 1832)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Elijah Williams (e. 1789; disp. 1796)  
 Robert Johnson (e. 1789; d. 1817)  
 Amos Fowler (e. 1796; disp. 1805)  
 Thomas Reed (e. 1805; d. 1820)

The records are much depleted; those extant are owned and held by the church.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1789-1803.

CR II - "West Stockbridge Center - Church Records - July 1807." Scattered records, 1803, 1807-1816, 1822-1826, 1885-1887.

CR III - "This book of Records belongs to the Congregational Church in West Stockbridge, January 1st A.D. 1827." Scattered records, 1827-1872, 1890-1913.

SR I - MISSING, Society Records, 1794-1829.

SR II - Society Records, 1829-1874.

See also Articles of Faith, Covenant, and Catalogue of Members of the First Congregational Church, in West Stockbridge, Mass., October 1, 1849 (Pittsfield, 1849); Florence L. Burke, The History of the Congregational Church of West Stockbridge, Mass. (n.p., 1958).

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1. Prior to becoming a town in 1774, the area was known as Queensborough, a name popularly retained down into the nineteenth century.



## WEST TISBURY (C).

The date of the church's gathering is uncertain, although the best evidence points to 1673.<sup>1</sup> The Westerly Parish in the town of Tisbury, in which this church was located, was set off in 1796, shortly after the erection of a meeting-house in the eastern part of the town (now Tisbury). The First Congregational Society was organized in 1878. In 1892 the old Westerly Parish became the town of West Tisbury.

Ministers:	John Mayhew	(sett. 1673, associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1688/89) <sup>2</sup>
	Josiah Torrey	(ord. 1704; d. 1723)
	Nathaniel Hancock	(ord. 1727; diss. 1756; d. 1774)
	John Rand	(sett. 1757; rem. 1757; d. 1805) <sup>3</sup>
	George Daman	(ord. 1760; diss. 1781; d. 1796)
	Asarelah Morse	(inst. 1784; diss. 1799; d. 1803)
	Nymphas Hatch	(ord. 1801; diss. 1819; d. 1850)

Ruling elders and deacons: whether or not the church employed ruling elders during its early years is not known. The information on the West Tisbury diaconate is fragmentary.

Deacons:	Experience Luce	(d. 1747)
	Benjamin Manter	(b. 1671; d. 1750)
	----- Athearn	(m. 1760)

1. The attempt to push the date back to 1651, and to claim as settled ministers the Rev. Thomas Mayhew, Jr. (d. 1657) and Gov. Thomas Mayhew (d. 1673) is rightfully ignored by careful historians like Charles E. Banks, The History of Martha's Vineyard, Duke's County, Massachusetts, II (Boston, 1911), p. 74.

2. Rev. Experience Mayhew, whose mission to the Vineyard Indians extended from 1694 until his death in 1758, is sometimes described as a "teacher" of this church, 1694-1699. See Banks, loc. cit.

3. Samuel West supplied here from 1757 to 1759, but was not ordained until his settlement at New Bedford in 1761.



Sylvanus Cottle	(b. 1704; rem. 1760)
Jonathan Luce	(e. 1761; d. 1763)
Stephen Luce	(e. 1761; d. 1801)
Rowland Luce	(e. 1763; d. 1767)
Ransford Smith	(e. 1767; d. 1811)
Cornelius Norton	(b. 1746; rem. 1794)
William Luce	(b. 1740; d. 1818)
John Gray	(b. 1760; d. 1834)
Timothy Athearn	(b. 1769; d. 1828)
Timothy Luce	(b. 1742; d. 1835)

The church records antedating 1756 were sequestered by Rev. Nathaniel Hancock at the time of his dismissal; the originals from which the following volumes of vital statistics were extracted have disappeared since their being copied in 1903.

VS I - "Baptisms at Tisbury, 1760-1785. From a copy of the Church Records, made in July 1850, by Richard L. Pease. The original records are not now known to be in existence, but the copy has every appearance of being authentic." Typescript copy made by Charles Banks, contained in "Documents Relating to Martha's Vineyard," owned and held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

VS II - "Tisbury Church. Admissions and Dismissions of Members. 1760-1782. Abstracted from a copy of the original record, made in July 1850 by the late Richard L. Pease. The original is not known to be in existence now." Typescript copy, as above.

VS III - "From Records of the Congregational Church, Tisbury. Alphabetically arranged and abbreviated. Deaths in Tisbury, 1760-1849." Typescript copy, as above.

VS IV - "Grave Stone Inscriptions West Tisbury Cemetary All Persons Born Before 1800." Typescript copy, as above.

CR - "Records of the First Congregational Church, West Tisbury, Mass." 1882-1930. Owned and held by the church.

PR I - "Parish Record." 1796-1878. Owned and held by the church.

PR II - Parish Records, 1878-1923. Owned and held by the church.

See also "A Description of Duke's County. August 13th, 1807," MHSC, 2nd Ser., III (1815, repub. 1846), 38-94; Banks, op. cit.



WEST TISBURY, Christiantown Indian Church (C), extinct.

This praying town, variously known as Manitouwattootan and Ohkonkemme, and finally as Christiantown, was set apart by Josias, the sachem of Takemmy, in 1660. The year of the church's gathering has been placed as early as 1680 and as late as 1705.<sup>1</sup> Until 1786, preaching was supplied by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Indians in New England, and thereafter by the Boston Society. By 1850, the church had become extinct; the meetinghouse, however, still stands.

See the bibliography on Indian churches, given under BOURNE, Herring Pond(s) Indian Church.

Ministers:	Gov. Thomas Mayhew, Sr.	(Vineyard governor; sett. Edgartown 1658, ministered to seven Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1681)
	Wunnanauhkomun	(Indian preacher, 1660; d. 1676)
	John Cotton, Jr.	(Indian mission on Vineyard 1664-1667; ord. Plymouth First 1669, also ministered to two dozen Indian praying towns and churches; rem. 1697; d. 1699)
	John Amanhut	(Indian preacher, 1670; d. 1672)
	John Mayhew	(sett. West Tisbury 1673, ministered to six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1688/89)
	James Sepinnu	(Indian preacher, 1680; d. 1683)
	John Shohkow <sup>2</sup>	(Indian preacher, 1683; ruling elder at Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket]; d. 1690)
	Micah Shohkow	(Indian preacher, 1690)

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1. See Frederick L. Weis, "The New England Company of 1649 and its Missionary Enterprises," CSMP, XXLVIII (1947-1951), esp. 191-192.

2. Sometimes called "Assaquanhut."



Stephen Shohkow	(Indian preacher, 1690; also served Chilmark [Seconchgut]; d. 1713)
Experience Mayhew	(sett. Indian missionary 1694, ministered to nine Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1758)
Josiah Torrey	(ord. West Tisbury 1704, associated with four Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1723)
Isaac Ompany <sup>1</sup>	(ruling elder at Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket] 1713; Indian preacher here; d. 1717)
Jabez Athearn	(Indian preacher, 1718-1719)
Hosea Manhut	(Indian preacher, 1724; also active Oak Bluffs [Sanchacantacket]; d. ca. 1724)
Nathaniel Hancock	(ord. West Tisbury 1727; associated with three Indian praying towns and churches; dism. 1756; d. 1774)
Zachariah Mayhew	(ord. Chilmark 1767; associated with six Indian praying towns and churches; d. 1806)
Frederic Baylies	(missionary, also active at Edgartown [Chappaquiddick]; d. 1836)

As is the case with all of the Indian churches except Natick, no records of this church are known to exist or even to have been kept.

#### WESTWOOD, First Parish (U).

The church was gathered on June 4, 1735 as the Second Church in Dedham; however, its parish, organized the following

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1. Sometimes given as "Ompanit."



year, was the Third Parish in that town,<sup>1</sup> and was popularly known as Clapboard Trees Parish.

During the nineteenth century, the area was known as West Dedham, and the church as the West Dedham Unitarian Church. In 1897 West Dedham became the town of Westwood, and the organization took the title of First Parish. The separation of the orthodox in 1808-1809 was, so to speak, nullified in 1944 when the orthodox and the Unitarians of Westwood federated, taking the name of "First Parish of Westwood, United Church (Unitarian-Congregational)."

Ministers: Josiah Dwight (inst. 1735; dism. 1743; d. 1748)  
 Andrew Tyler (ord. 1743; dism. 1772; d. 1775)  
 Thomas Thacher (ord. 1780; d. 1812)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early church records, knowledge of the Westwood diaconate is fragmentary.

Jonathan Onion (e. 1735; d. 1758)  
 Joseph Ellis (e. 1735; d. 1783)  
 Ichabod Gay (m. 1774; d. 1814)  
 Ichabod Ellis (m. 1799; d. 1811)

There are no extant church records antedating 1879;<sup>2</sup> the parish records, owned by the First Parish United Church, are held by the Dedham Historical Society, Dedham.

1. The Second Parish, organized in 1730, had no church until 1736. See Norwood.

2. "All the records of this Church prior to 1879 have been destroyed by fire . . . . The records of the Church of the Third Parish in Dedham were formerly contained in two books. One . . . contained the records of Rev. Andrew Tyler and Rev. Thomas Thacher, and possibly their predecessor, Rev. Josiah Dwight. The second book . . . contained the neatly kept records of Rev. John White, and those of his successors until the year 1879 . . . . The destruction of these books when the Nahatan House was burned, May 26, 1879, leaves a gap in the history of the town which it is impossible to fill satisfactorily . . . ." Don G. Hill, The Record of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths and Admissions to the Church and Dismissals Therefrom, Transcribed from the Church Records in the Town of Dedham, Massachusetts. 1634-1845 (Dedham, 1888), p. 208.



PR I - "Records of the Third Parish in Dedham for the years 1737-1738-1739-1740-." 1737-1798.

PR II - Parish Records, 1799-1849.

PR III - Parish Records, 1849-1888.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors Rate Books, 1824-1832, 1834-1849, 1850-1852, 1853-1855, 1856-1862; Parish Collector's Accounts, 1737-1784; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1799-1854.

See also Thomas Thacher, Two Discourses; The First, Delivered on Taking Leave of the Old Meeting-House in the Third Parish in Dedham, February 26: and the Second At the Dedication of the New House in Said Parish, March 1, 1809 (Dedham, 1809); John White, A Centennial Discourse, Delivered before the Congregational Society in the Third Parish of Dedham, January 17th, 1836 (Dedham, 1836); Calvin S. Locke, Other Men Have Labored: A Sermon Preached December 7th, 1879 (Dedham, 1880); Calvin S. Locke, MS "West Dedham," 1885, owned and held by the Dedham Historical Society; George W. Cooke, A History of The Clapboard Trees or Third Parish, Dedham, Mass. Now the Unitarian Parish, West Dedham. 1736-1886 (Boston, 1887); Marjory R. Fenerty, The Meeting House on a Rock: A History of the First Parish of Westwood, United Church (Westwood, 1959).

WEST YARMOUTH, Precinct, Society and Church (see Yarmouth, West).



## WEYMOUTH, First (C).

The church, although provisionally "gathered before,"<sup>1</sup> was covenanted on Jan. 30, 1639. In 1723, Weymouth was divided into First (North) and Second (South) Precincts. The church being located in the former area, became variously known as the First or North Church in Weymouth, or First Church in North Weymouth. The precinct eventually became the First Parish.

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1. "At this court [held on July 8, 1635] Wessaguscus was made a plantation, and Mr. [Joseph] Hull, a minister in England, and twenty-one families with him, allowed to sit down there -- after called Weymouth." James K. Hosmer (ed.), Winthrop's Journal "History of New England" 1630-1649 (New York, 1908), I, p. 154.

Under date of Jan. 9, 1638, Winthrop continues: "Divers of the elders went to Weymouth, to reconcile the differences between the people and Mr. Jenner, whom they had called thither with intent to have him their pastor. They had good success of their prayers." Ibid., p. 258.

And finally, under date of Jan. 30, 1639, the governor records: "A church was gathered at Weymouth with approbation of the magistrates and elders. It is observable, this church, having been gathered before, and so that of Lynn, could not hold together, nor could have any elders join or hold with them. The reason appeared to be, because they did not begin according to the rule of the gospel . . . ." Ibid., p. 292.

From Winthrop's account, it is evident that the events of 1635, as far as the gathering of the church is concerned, constituted only a provisional beginning. If a church covenant was subscribed during the years 1635-1638, it was considered as being of no effect, when the people of Weymouth joined in covenant on Jan. 30, 1639.

The church's recent claim to having been founded in 1623, although accepted by Robert T. Swan, "Tenth Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties," Public Documents of Massachusetts . . . for the Year 1897, II (Boston, 1898), 142, is therefore disallowed. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 279, presses for the date, July of 1635, and elsewhere (p. 116) names Joseph Hull as "the first minister" at Weymouth, a claim that should be taken only in a provisional sense.



Ministers:	Joseph Hull	(sett. 1635; rem. 1639; d. 1665)
	Thomas Jenner	(sett. 1636; rem. 1640; d. 1676)
	Robert Lenthall	(sett. 1637; rem. 1639; d. 1658)
	Samuel Newman	(inst. 1638/39 as "the first minister"; rem. 1644; d. 1663)
	Thomas Thacher	(ord. 1644/45; rem. 1669; d. 1678)
	Samuel Torrey	(ord. 1664/65; d. 1707)
	Peter Thacher	(ord. 1707; dism. 1718; d. 1738/39)
	Thomas Paine	(ord. 1719; dism. 1734; d. 1757)
	William Smith	(ord. 1734; d. 1783) <sup>1</sup>
	Jacob Norton	(ord. 1787; dism. 1824; d. 1858)

Ruling elders: the lack of 17th century records prevents our knowing much about the Weymouth ruling eldership, although other sources clearly indicate that the church employed such an officer as early as 1646.<sup>2</sup>

----- Bates (m. 1669/70; d. 1686)<sup>3</sup>  
John Rogers (d. 1710)<sup>4</sup>

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1. James Blake, who assisted Smith from 1769 until his death in 1771, was never settled in the Weymouth ministry.

2. John Winthrop, in James K. Hosmer, *op. cit.*, II, p. 287, mentions a ruling elder at Weymouth, but fails to provide his name. BOSTON, Dorchester, First, CR PUB, p. 45, remarks on the participation of a Weymouth ruling elder in Torrey's ordination under date of "19 of (12) 64" (*i.e.*, Feb. 19, 1664/65), and, pp. 130-131, in Peter Thacher's ordination on Nov. 16, 1707.

3. See BOSTON, Third, CR PUB, p. 160, under date of "16: (12) 1669 (*i.e.*, Feb. 16, 1669/70); also Peter Hobart's diary, preserved in William Bentley, The Diary of William Bentley, D.D., Pastor of the East Church, Salem, Massachusetts (Gloucester, 1962), III, under date of "1686 March 10."

4. See Peter Hobart's diary, in Bentley, *op. cit.*, III, under date of "1710 February 28."



Deacons: the information on the Weymouth diaconate is similarly limited by the lack of church records.

----- Phillips	(m. 1681) <sup>1</sup>
----- Dyer	(d. 1704) <sup>2</sup>
Thomas White	(m. 1733-1735)
Josiah Waterman	(m. 1734; res. 1770)
Benjamin Shaw	(m. 1734-1752)
John Holbrook	(m. 1753-1770)
Abiah Whitman	(m. 1754; d. <u>ca.</u> 1770)
John Porter	(e. 1770; cta. 1784)
Samuel Webb	(e. 1770; res. 1801; d. 1809)
Dr. Cotton Tufts	(e. 1774; m. 1804)
Ebenezer Hunt	(e. 1801; m. 1804)
Elnathan Bates	(e. 1801; d. 1820)

Vital statistics and running records of the church antedating 1735 and 1770, respectively, have long been lost. The extant records are owned and held by the church, unless otherwise noted.

Not listed below, but worthy of note is "Diaries of Rev. William Smith," MHSP, XLII [3rd Ser., II] (1908-1909), 444-470.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1639-1770.

CR II - "Book No. 1." (Flyleaf: "The Church Book 1735.") Running records, 1770-1787, 1826-1835; vital statistics: baptisms, 1734-1785, 1824-1836; admissions, 1735-1783, 1824-1836; marriages, 1734-1741, 1824-1837; deaths, 1824-1837. Owned by the church; held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

CR III - Rev. Jacob Norton's Book. Scattered church records, 1792-1833; vital statistics, 1787-1824.

CR IV - "Book of Church Records First Evan. Con. Chh. in North Weymouth. Commenced by Rev. John C. Phillips December 18th 1833." 1833-1873.

CR V - "Record." 1873-1911.

1. See "Diary of Samuel Sewall. 1674-1729," MHSC, 5th Ser., VI (1879), 117.

2. See BOSTON, Charlestown, CR I PUB HUNNEWELL, p. 18.



PR I - First (North) Precinct Records, 1723/24-1797. Owned by the church; held by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

PR II - "Weymouth North Parish Records." 1798-1824.

PR III - "Records of the North Parish in Weymouth." 1824-1838.

PR IV - "Parish Records." (Flyleaf: "North Parish in Weymouth 1838.") 1838-1905.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1886-1922.

See also Church Manual (Boston, 1847; rep. Boston, 1887, and n.p., 1912); Joshua Emery, Jr., A Discourse Delivered in the North Church, Weymouth, January 5, 1851 (Boston, 1851); Gilbert Nash, Historical Sketch of the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts, from 1622 to 1884 (Boston, 1885).

#### WEYMOUTH, Old South Union Church (C).

The church was gathered on Sept. 18, 1723 as the Second (South) Church in Weymouth, the Second (South) Precinct having been set off earlier the same year. The church received incorporation in 1892 under the title of Old South Church of Weymouth, while the Old South Congregational Religious Society was incorporated the following year. In 1918, the church and society merged with the South Weymouth Union Church and Society, becoming popularly known as "The Old South Union Church."

Ministers: James Bayley (ord. 1723; d. 1766)  
Simeon Williams (ord. 1768; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Samuel Whitman (e. 1723)  
Jacob Turner (e. 1723)  
Samuel White (e. 1726)  
Ebenezer Hovey (e. 1726)  
John Blanchard (e. 1743; res. 1751)

Matthew White	(e. 1743)
Richard Ager	(e. 1751)
Adam Torrey	(e. 1751)
Samuel Blanchard, Jr.	(e. 1762)
Nathaniel Bayley	(e. 1771)
Eliphalet Loud	(e. 1802)
Samuel Torrey	(e. 1802)

The records are owned by the church, and unless otherwise noted, deposited with a local bank.

CR I - "Church Records 1723." (Flyleaf: "The Book of Records of The Second Church of Christ in Weymouth Anno Domini 1723.") 1723-1818.

CR I COPY - "A Copy of the Book of Records of The Second Church of Christ in Weymouth Anno Domini 1723." Held by the Weymouth Historical Society, Fogg Library, South Weymouth.

VS I PUB - John J. Loud (ed.), "The Book of Records of the Second Church of Christ in Weymouth. Anno Domini - 1723. -," GA, II (1899), 65-70, 113-118, III (1900), 41-49, 101-109, IV (1901), 37-41. <sup>1</sup>Baptisms, owners of the covenant, marriages, 1723-1818.

CR II - "Church Records 1818." 1818-1835.

PR I - "Parish Book." Precinct/parish records, 1723-1811.

PR I COPY - "A Copy of the 'Parish Book' of the South Parish in Weymouth, Containing the records of the Second Precinct or Parish, from its organization in 1723 to August 1811 inclusive." Held by the Weymouth Historical Society.

PR II - "Weymouth South Parish Records 1812." 1812-1867.

SR III - "Records Second Cong. Soc. Weymouth." 1868-1912.

Miscellaneous records: Church Register, compiled 1871, of church officers, baptisms, membership, from 1723; Society Assessors Rate Books, 1850, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861; Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1825-1875.

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1. Offprinted under the same title (Boston, 1900).



WEYMOUTH, North Precinct, Parish and Church (see Weymouth, First, East).

WEYMOUTH, Second Church and Precinct, Parish, Society (see Weymouth, Old South Union Church).

WEYMOUTH, South Parish (see Weymouth, Old South Union Church).

# WHATELY (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 21, 1771;<sup>1</sup> the parish was organized in 1828.

Minister: Rufus Wells (ord. 1771; d. 1834)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Nathan Graves	(e. 1771; acc. 1773; d. 1786)
	Oliver Graves	(e. 1771, refused; e. 1790; d. 1810)
	Salmon White	(e. 1773; d. 1815)
	Thomas Sanderson	(e. 1786; rem. 1804 but continued to serve at Whately; d. 1824)
	Levi Morton	(e. 1800; res. 1810; d. 1816)

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1. CR I dates the covenanting of the church on Aug. 13, 1771, but the town records make it evident that this is an error for Aug. 21.

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the Church of Christ in Whately upon the Congregational Plan." 1771-1821.

CR II - "Book II. Church Record Book of Whately, Mass." (Flyleaf: "Records of the Church The Call of the Town Whately December.31.1821.") 1821-1843.

CR III - "Book III. Church Record. 1844." (Flyleaf: "Record of the First Congregational Church, Whately, Mass. Commencing April 11, 1844.") 1844-1860.

CR IV - "Records. Cong. Church Whately." 1860-1898.

CR V - "Register and Record Book. First Cong. Church of Whately, Massachusetts. Jan. 15, 1898." 1898-1947.

PR I - "Parish Record. Whately 1828. No. 1." 1828-1866.

PR II - Parish Records, 1867-1959.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1869-1939.

#### WILBRAHAM, United (C).

The church was gathered on June 24,<sup>1</sup> 1741 as the Church in the Fourth Precinct in Springfield. The precinct became the town of Wilbraham in 1763, and the church's name was accordingly changed.

In 1782, the town was divided into First (North) and Second (South) Parishes, the first encompassing the church of 1741 which became popularly known as the North Congregational Church.<sup>2</sup>

In 1914, this church merged with a local Methodist church, and took the title, "United Church."

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1. The area was originally known as "Springfield Mountain."

2. The Second (South) Parish became the town of Hampden in 1878.



Ministers: Noah Merrick (ord. 1741; d. 1776)  
 Joseph Willard (ord. 1787; dism. 1794; d. 1827)  
 Ezra Witter (ord. 1797; dism. 1814; d. 1833)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: David Merrick (e. 1744; d. 1757)  
 Nathaniel Warriner (e. 1744; d. 1780)  
 Capt. Samuel Day (e. 1759)  
 Lt. John Hitchcock (e. 1780, refused; m. as  
 deacon 1781)  
 Elieazur Smith (e. 1780, refused ?)  
 Gideon Burt (e. 1787; res. 1804; d. 1814)  
 Lt. Noah Warriner (e. 1789; res. 1794)<sup>1</sup>  
 Cheliab Merrick (e. 1795; excom. 1821)<sup>2</sup>  
 Rev. Aaron Woodard (e. 1805; d. 1840)<sup>3</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Church Records of Wilbraham - Also Church Covenant.  
 No. 1. No. Wilbraham." Largely vital statistics, 1741-1776.

CR II - "North Wilbraham - Church Records." 1778-1786.

VS I & II - Ella M. Lewis and Herbert E. Thayer, typescript  
 "Records of y<sup>e</sup> Chh in y<sup>e</sup> East Precinct In Springfield,"  
 being a copy of statistical materials (paralleling CR I and  
 CR II) then held by the Connecticut Valley Historical Soci-  
 ety, Springfield. The typescript is owned and held by the  
 Congregational Library, Boston.

CR III - Church Records, 1787-1797, 1805, with vital statis-  
 tics to 1808.

CR IV - Church Records, 1801-1831.

CR V - "Records of the Congregational Church in North-  
 Wilbraham, Feby. 13th. 1832." 1832-1868.

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1. CR III notes the death of a Deacon Preserved Wright in  
 1790.

2. Deacons Ezekiel and Daniel Ladd became members here by  
 letters of transfer in 1801, and may have served as Wilbraham  
 deacons. Ezekiel died in 1808, Daniel removed from town in  
 1810.

3. Woodard transferred his membership here from a church at  
 Wilton, Norwalk, Ct.

CR VI - "Records of the First Congregational Church, Wilbraham, Mass." 1868-1941.

PR I - "A Book of Records for the North Parish of Wilbraham." 1782-1854.

SR II - Society Records, 1855-1893.

SR III - Society Records, 1894-1938.

Miscellaneous records: Parish/Society Collector's Accounts, 1811-1852, 1868-1911; Parish/Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1782-1862, 1862-1938; Record of Subscriptions to Repair the Meetinghouse, 1832-1833.

See also Manual of the First Congregational Church Wilbraham, Mass., and Catalogue of the Members of the Church. 1891 (Palmer, 1891); Martin S. Howard, A Discourse Delivered June 26th, 1891, at the Celebration of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Year of the First Congregational Church of Wilbraham (Ludlow, 1892).

WILBRAHAM, North Parish and North Church (see Wilbraham).

WILBRAHAM, South Parish (see Hampden).

WILLIAMSBURG (C).

The church was gathered on July 3, 1771; the date of the parish's organization is not known.



Ministers: Amos Butler (ord. 1773; d. 1777)  
 Joseph Strong (inst. 1781; d. 1803)  
 Henry Lord (ord. 1804; d. 1834)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Amasa Frost<sup>1</sup> (e. 1771; d. 1795)  
 Joseph Corey (e. 1771; d. 1803)  
 Elisha Allis (e. 1785)  
 Nehemiah Cleaveland (e. 1785)  
 Elisha Nash (e. 1790; d. 1827)  
 Asa Ludden (e. 1790; d. 1825)  
 Samuel Graves (e. 1804; d. 1821)

There are no extant records of the church or parish antedating 1909. See William Lusk, A Discourse Delivered at Williamsburg, January 24, 1836 . . . Prefixed is an Historical Sketch of that Church (Northampton, 1836); Catalogue of Members of the First Congregational Church in Williamsburgh, to which is prefixed The Confession of Faith, Covenant, and Articles of Practice of the Church. April, 1853 (Northampton, 1853; rep. under the title, Manual of the First Congregational Church, Williamsburg, Mass. in 1873); Phyllis B. Deming, A History of Williamsburg in Massachusetts, 175th Anniversary (Northampton, 1946), esp. Chs. V and XIV.

#### WILLIAMSTOWN, First (C).

The church was gathered in March of 1765. The parish was organized in 1829, and dissolved in 1935 at the time of the church's incorporation.

Ministers: Whitman Welsh (ord. 1765; d. 1776)  
 Seth Swift (ord. 1779; d. 1807)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: due to the lack of early records, only three names are known.

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1. Sometimes given as "Cary."

Nathan Wheeler (rem. 1784)  
 James Meacham (d. 1813)  
 Ebenezer Stratton (e. 1784; d. 1814)

The church records for the years 1765-1776 were reported missing in 1829.<sup>1</sup> The records for 1776-1826 were destroyed by the fire in 1868 which badly damaged CR I. The extant records are owned by the church and deposited with a local bank.

CR I - "Gridley Records - Date 1826." Badly fire-damaged.

CR II - "Church Record. Vol. 2. 1834-1847." (Flyleaf: "Records of the First Congregational Church in Williamstown, Mass. from the year 1834.")

CR III - "Church Records, 1848-1866."

CR IV - "Records of the First Congregational Church for 1867." 1867-1901.

PR I - "The 1st Vol. Parish Records. 1829-1856, complete from the Organization of the Parish."

PR II - "First Congregational Church, Williamstown, Mass. Parish Records." 1856-1935.

See also the several editions of the church manual: Articles of Faith and Form of Covenant Adopted by The Church in Williamstown (Williamstown, 1832), Church Manual (North Adams, 1849; Boston, 1868), Manual of the First Congregational Church, Williamstown, Mass. (Pittsfield, 1879); Mason Noble, Centennial Discourse, Delivered in Williamstown, Mass., November 19, 1865 (North Adams, 1865); Proceedings in Commemoration of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the First Congregational Church, Williamstown, Mass. (Pittsfield, 1916), esp. pp. 48-92.

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1. See History of The County of Berkshire, Massachusetts; in Two Parts (Pittsfield, 1829), pp. 397-416.



## WILMINGTON (C).

The church was gathered on Oct. 24, 1733, the parish having been organized some three years earlier in "the North East Part of Woburn and Westerly part of Reading," i.e., the town of Wilmington. The First Religious Society was incorporated in 1834, the church in 1887 as the Congregational Church in Wilmington, not long after which the society became inactive.

Ministers:	James Varney	(ord. 1733; dism. 1739; d. 1783)
	Isaac Morrill	(ord. 1741; d. 1793)
	Freegrace Raynolds	(ord. 1795; dism. 1830; d. 1854)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	James Tompson	(e. 1733; m. 1760)
	Deacon John Harnden	(e. 1734; m. 1737) <sup>1</sup>
	Capt. Kendal Pearson	(e. 1743; m. 1760)
	Stephen Wesson	(e. 1760; m. 1770)
	Cadwalader Ford	(e. 1766, refused ?)
	Thomas Peirce	(e. 1766)
	Benjamin Jaquith	(e. 1770; res. 1796)
	David Stanly	(e. 1770; e. confirmed 1777)
	Timothy Walker	(e. 1777; m. 1795)
	Benjamin Thompson	(e. 1796)
	Nathaniel Morrill	(m. 1803; res. 1817) <sup>2</sup>

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "The Book of Records for the Church of Christ in Wilmington - 1733." 1733-1797, with vital statistics to 1826.

CR II - "Church Records 1826-1857 (Second Book)." (Fly-leaf: "Records of the Congregational Church in Wilmington. Second Book, begun 1826.") 1826-1857.

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1. Harnden had formerly served as a deacon at North Reading.

2. A lacuna in the records makes it difficult to tell just when Morrill was elected. Nor is it certain just when Ebenezer Thompson, who joined the church in 1797 and whose name is frequently coupled with Morrill's, joined the Wilmington diaconate.

CR III - "Church Records 1858-1888 Including List of Members (Third Book.) Cong. Church Wilmington."

VS I - Admissions, 1804-1899.

SR I & SR II - "Records of First Religious Society 1834-1865 (Two Books)." Two volumes, bound together, 1834-1845, 1845-1865.

SR III - Society Records, 1865-1894.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1826-1876, 1889-1896; Church Committee Records, 1888-1913; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1845-1860, 1877-1892.

See also Articles of Faith and Covenant, Ecclesiastical Principles, Standing Rules, and List of Members, of The Orthodox Congregational Church, Wilmington, Mass., Adopted in their present form by vote of the Church, July 3d, 1857 (Woburn, 1857); History, Year Book and Church Directory of the First Congregational Church Wilmington, Mass. (n.p., 1933).

#### WINCHENDON, First (C).

The church was gathered on Dec. 15, 1762 in the area known as "Ipswich Canada," which two years later became the town of Winchendon. The First Parish was organized in 1826. The church has been inactive for the past thirty years.

Ministers: Daniel Stimpson (ord. 1762; d. 1768)  
Joseph Brown (ord. 1769; disp. 1799; d. 1811)  
Levi Pillsbury (ord. 1801; d. 1819)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Richard Day (e. 1763; d. 1774)  
Abel Wilder (e. 1767)  
Moses Hale (m. 1778-1810)  
Samuel Prentice (m. 1790; d. ca. 1810)  
Levi Moore (m. 1790; d. ca. 1810)



Amos Heywood (e. 1802)  
Israel Whiston (e. 1802)<sup>1</sup>

The records antedating 1801 were reported missing in 1868;<sup>2</sup> the only extant book is held by the Beals Memorial Library, Winchendon.

CR - Church Records, 1763, 1801-1836. First six pages missing.

See also Ezra Hyde, History of the Town of Winchendon (Worcester, 1849); A. P. Marvin, op. cit.; E. M. Whitney et alii, Winchendon: A Retrospect of One Hundred and Fifty Years (Winchendon, 1914).

WINDSOR, First (C).

The church was gathered on March 25, 1773 in the area then known as Gageborough. In 1778, Gageborough became the town of Windsor, and the church's name was duly changed. The First Congregational Parish was incorporated in 1824.

Ministers: David Avery (inst. 1773; dism. 1777;  
d. 1818)  
Elisha Fish (ord. 1785; dism. 1792; d. 1807)  
Gordon Dorrance (ord. 1795; dism. 1834; d. 1846)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: John Brown (e. 1785)  
Zebediah Morse (e. 1785; rem. 1800)  
Joshua Phillips (e. 1800)  
Henry Brewster (e. 1804, refused ?)  
John Brown, Jr. (e. 1805)

1. Whether Deacon Desire Tolman, mentioned in 1808, was elected before 1806 is not known.

2. See A. P. Marvin, History of the Town of Winchendon (Worcester County, Mass.) (Winchendon, 1868), p. 312.

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the Church of Christ in Windsor (formerly called Gageborough.) Chiefly since the installment of Mr. David Avery their Pastor, 25th March 1773." 1773-1865.

CR I COPY COOKE - Rollin H. Cooke, "Windsor Congregational Church." Typescript copy, made in 1900. Cooke Collection, Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield.

CR I COPY BROWNE - William Browne, "Windsor Church, Records, 1773-1864." Two typescript copies, made in 1930.

CR II - "A Book of Records of the Church of Christ in Windsor - denominated the First Congregational Church - Organized in the year of our Lord 1773. Jan'y 1866." Running records, scattered 1866-1898; in full, 1898-1945.

SR I - "Book No. 1: Book of Records for the first Congregational Society in Windsor, February 1823." 1823-1846.

SR II - "Book No. 2. Book of Records for the first Congregational Society in Windsor. Apr 11th, 1846." 1846-1918.

WINDSOR, Second (C), extinct.

". . . after Mr. Avery's dismissal [in 1777], the Chh. was sometime destitute of a Pastor, and very small. After this there came among them one John Eliot, and a pretense being made that there was no Chh. in this place, a Chh. was formed, over which he was ordained. But, his conduct being unsuitable, after about three months from the time of his ordination, he was dismissed. Mr. Avery's Chh. though very small, still remained in existence." (WINDSOR, CR I, pp. 2-3.)

Nothing further is known about this short-lived church, or its pastor, John Eliot.



## [WINTHROP, Union Church (C).]

In 1955, the Union Congregational Church in Winthrop formally observed its "two hundredth anniversary," necessitating some brief entry in this inventory.

Stirred by the preaching of George Whitefield, the residents of Point Shirley (now Winthrop) commenced the construction of a meetinghouse in 1755. Preaching was supplied from the latter part of that year, and in 1756 the town of Chelsea (of which Point Shirley was a part) voted to increase taxes at the Point to supply ministers for the meetinghouse. By 1780, the failure of the fishing industry had reduced the Point's population to two families, and in 1817 the building was dismantled.

No church was gathered in Winthrop until 1896, when the Union Congregational Church was recognized by an ecclesiastical council and received incorporation from the Commonwealth.

See 1755-1955. 200th Anniversary of Congregationalism In Winthrop. The Union Congregational Church, Winthrop, Massachusetts (n.p., 1955).

## WOBURN, First (C).

The church was gathered on Aug. 14, 1642. The Trustees of the Woburn Ministerial Fund were incorporated in 1810. The First Parish, organized in 1724, was incorporated in 1816.

Ministers:	Thomas Carter	(ord. 1642; d. 1684)
	Jabez Fox	(ord. 1679; d. 1703)
	John Fox	(ord. 1703; d. 1756)
	Edward Jackson	(ord. 1729; d. 1754)
	Josiah Sherman	(ord. 1756; disp. and rem. 1775; d. 1789)
	Samuel Sargeant	(ord. 1785; disp. 1799; d. 1818)
	Joseph Chickering	(ord. 1804; disp. 1821; d. 1844)

Ruling elders: none.



Deacons:	Edward Convers	(e. 1642; d. 1663)
	John Mousall	(e. 1642; d. 1665)
	John Wright	(e. 1664; d. 1668) <sup>1</sup>
	John Russell	(e. 1664; d. 1676)
	Josiah Convers	(e. 1674; d. 1690)
	Henry Baldwin	(e. 1686; d. 1698)
	Samuel Walker	(e. 1692; d. 1704)
	William Lock	(e. 1700; d. 1720)
	Joseph Wright	(e. 1700; d. 1724)
	Samuel Walker	(e. 1709; dism. and rem. 1735; d. 1744)
	William Lock	(e. 1709; d. 1738)
	Edward Johnson	(e. 1717; d. 1725)
	George Reed	(e. 1719; dism. and rem. 1735; d. 1756)
	James Thompson	(e. 1725; res. 1733; d. 1763)
	Josiah Wright	(e. 1735; d. 1747)
	Joseph Hartwell	(e. 1736; d. 1743)
	Josiah Pierce	(e. 1742; d. 1759)
	Stephen Richardson	(e. 1745; d. 1752)
	Samuel Eames	(e. 1745; d. 1775)
	John Wright	(e. 1758; d. 1763)
	Deacon John Leathe	(e. 1759; d. 1775)
	Nathan Richardson	(e. 1761; d. 1775)
	Samuel Wyman	(e. 1764; d. 1787)
	Samuel Thompson <sup>2</sup>	(e. 1776; res. 1812; d. 1820)
	Obadiah Kendall	(e. 1776; d. 1811)
	Zebediah Wyman	(e. 1789; d. 1793)
	Josiah Richardson	(e. 1789; d. 1795)
	Jeduthan Richardson	(e. 1796; res. 1812; d. 1815)
	Josiah Wright	(e. 1805; res. 1825; d. 1830)

The loss<sup>3</sup> of all church records antedating 1755 was reported in 1867; the extant records are owned by the church and are deposited with a local bank.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1642-1755.

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1. Sometimes the date of Wright's death is given as 1688.

2. See William R Cutter, "Diaries of Samuel Thompson, Esq., Woburn, Mass.," *NEHGR*, XXXIV (1880), 397-401.

3. William F. Poole (ed.), Wonder-Working Providence of Sions Saviour in New England [By Captain Edward Johnson] (Andover, 1867), "Introduction," p. xcii. Johnson's famed account of the gathering of the Woburn church (Book II, Chapter xxii) was composed less than a decade after the event, and so stands as an excellent example of such church activities in the 1640's. See also Wintarop's Journal "History of New England" 1630-1649, ed. by James K. Hosmer (New York, 1908), II, p. 88.



CR II - "First Church in Woburn Book, 1755-1846 (Dec. 4)."

CR II COPY - Helen C. McGown, "First Church Records, 1755-1843, Copy." Copy made in 1897 omits all disciplinary records.

CR III - "III." Church records, 1843-1893.

CR IV - Church Records, 1894-1922.

VS - "First Church of Christ at Woburn, Mass. 1898." 1871-1905.

PR I - "Woburn first Parish BOOK of Records A. 1732-1753."

PR II - "Woburn First Parish Book of Records From January 1754 to 1792."

PR III - Parish Records, 1792-1848.

PR IV - "First Congregational Parish, Woburn." 1848-1888.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Order Book, 1784-1813; Trustees of the Ministerial Fund, Treasurer's Accounts, 1809-1842; Pew Deeds, 1860-1901.

See also the several church manuals, the first being The Rules and Regulations, and Confession of Faith and Covenant of the First Congregational Church in Woburn, with Lists of the Founders, Pastors, and Deacons; Together with a Catalogue of the Existing Members. July, 1844 (Somerville, 1844); the others, usually titled Manual of the First Congregational Church, were published Woburn, 1852; Woburn, 1871; Woburn, 1901; Boston, 1917. See further Commemoration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the First Church at Woburn, Massachusetts (Congregational) Held October 2, 1892, in Connection with the Civic Celebration (n.p., 1893); 1642-1942. First Congregational Church, Woburn, Massachusetts. The Tercentenary Program. November 17, 18, 20, 22, 1942 (Woburn, 1942).

WOBURN, Third or Separate (C), extinct.

The church was gathered on Sept. 17, 1746 by New Lights who had withdrawn from Woburn's First Church. The Third Society was organized the following year. In 1756, church and society united with the First Church and Parish.

Minister: Josiah Cotton (inst. 1747; rem. 1756; d. 1780)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacon: John Leathe (e. 1746-7; rem. to First Church when Third dissolved 1756; e. deacon First Church 1759; d. 1775)

Any records of this Third Church have long since disappeared; the known details were summarized in D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men (Philadelphia, 1890), I, 428-430, referring the reader to MS. materials then extant. See also C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 318.

WOBURN, Second Church and Parish (see Burlington).

WOBURN, North East Part of [and Westerly part of Reading] (see Wilmington).

WOONKSECHOCKSEPT Church (see Sterling, First).



## WORCESTER, First (C).

The First<sup>1</sup> or "Old South" Church of Worcester was gathered in 1719,<sup>1</sup> and the First Parish was organized in 1787. The parish dissolved at the time of the church's incorporation in 1908.

Ministers: Andrew Gardner, Jr. (ord. 1719; dism. 1722; d. 1773)  
 Isaac Burr (ord. 1725; dism. 1745; d. 1751)  
 Thaddeus Maccarty (inst. 1747; d. 1784)  
 Samuel Austin, D.D. (inst. 1790; e. President, University of Vt. 1815 retaining pastoral title; dism. 1818; d. 1830)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Nathaniel Moore (e. 1716; d. 1761)<sup>2</sup>  
 Daniel Heywood (e. 1716; d. 1773)<sup>2</sup>  
 Daniel Ward (m. 1748)  
 James Goodwin (m. 1748)  
 Jonas Rice (e. 1748; d. 1753)  
 Thomas Wheeler (e. 1748; d. 1769)  
 Jacob Chamberlain (e. 1751; d. 1790)  
 Samuel Miller (e. 1751; d. 1759)  
 Nathan Perry (e. 1783; d. 1806)  
 Thomas Wheeler (e. 1783; d. 1795)  
 John Chamberlain (e. 1791; d. 1813)  
 Leonard Worcester (e. 1797; d. 1846)  
 David Richards (e. 1801; d. 1829)

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1. The church's frequent claims to having been organized in 1716 (see the several church manuals listed below) confuse the early stages of organization with the actual gathering of the church in 1719. See Charles E. Stevens, Worcester Churches, 1719-1889 (Worcester, 1890).

2. Although thus reported in The History, Articles of Faith, Covenant, and Standing Rules, of The First Church in Worcester, Mass. (The Old South:) with A Catalogue of its Officers and Members, Worcester, March 25, 1854 (Worcester, 1854), one is prompted to wonder if there were not two Deacon Daniel Heywoods during the 18th century. The Heywood who died in 1773 was seventy-nine years of age, which would have made him only twenty-two at the time of his election, extraordinarily young to be chosen to such a post in 1716.



The extant 18th century church records are fragmentary, consisting largely of vital statistics. The records are owned by the church, and unless otherwise noted, are deposited with the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

CR I - MISSING, Church Records, 1719-1747.

CR II - (a) Folder, "Records of the Old South Church, Worcester, Mass., 1747-1761." (b) Folder, "Records of the Old South Church, Worcester, Mass., 1745-1790. Baptisms, admissions & demissions."

CR III - "Records of the First Church, Worcester, from Oct. 9, 1816 to Sept. 14, 1820."

VS IV - "Records, 1821-1824. Old South Church, Worcester." Admissions only.

CR IV - Church Records, 1820-1846. Held by the church.

CR V - Church Records, 1846-1861. Held by the church.

CR VI - Church Records, 1862-1879. Held by the church.

CR VII - Church Records, 1872-1897. Held by the church.

CR VIII - Church Records, 1880-1900. Held by the church.

PR I - "Old South Church, Worcester. 1787-1828." Parish records.

Miscellaneous records: Parish Treasurer's Accounts, 1788-1831; Parish Assessors Rate Books, held by the church, 1818-1836, 1837-1851, 1856-1871; Parish Warrants, held by the church, 1831-1850, 1849-1871; Parish Membership List, held by the church, 1834-1898.

See also Timothy Paine *et alii*, "A Topographical Description of the Town of Worcester," MHSC, 1st Ser., I (1792, pub. 1806), 112-116; and the several editions of the church manual, *e.g.*, the 1854 edition cited above.



WORCESTER, First Unitarian Church, Second Parish (U).

The church was gathered in March of 1785. The Second Parish was incorporated in 1787.

Minister: Aaron Bancroft, D.D. (ord. 1786; d. 1839)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons: Samuel Bridge (e. 1786; d. 1799)  
David Bigelow (e. 1786; d. 1810)  
Nathan Heard (m. 1803; d. ca. 1820)

The records are owned by the church, and deposited with the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

CR I - "Membership Book and Records of the Second Church in Worcester." 1785-1850, with admissions to 1916.

VS I - "Marriages & Deaths, 1785-1839."

VS II - "Marriages, 1823-1919."

VS III - "Members of Church and Parish, 1827."

VS IV - "Deaths, 1836-1919."

PR I - "Records of the 2d Parish in the Town of Worcester, Vol. I." 1789-1821.

PR II - "2d Parish Records. Vol. II." 1822-1846.

PR III - "Second Parish Records. Vol. 3." 1847-1889.

Miscellaneous records include a complete set of Parish Treasurer's Account Books.

See also Samuel S. Green, "Gleanings from the Sources of the History of the Second Parish, Worcester, Massachusetts," AASP, New Ser., II (1882-1883), 301-320.

WORCESTER, North Precinct (see Holden).

WORCESTER, Old South Church (see Worcester, First, Old South).

WORCESTER, Second Church and Parish (see Worcester, First Unitarian).

WORCESTER, South Precinct, Parish (see Auburn).

# WORTHINGTON (C).

The church was gathered on Apr. 1, 1771; the First Congregational Society was organized in 1865.

Ministers:	Jonathan Huntington	(ord. 1771; d. 1781)
	Josiah Spaulding	(inst. 1738; dism. 1794; d. 1823)
	Jonathan L. Pomeroy	(ord. 1794; dism. 1832; d. 1836)

Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Joseph Marsh	(e. 1771; d. 1786)
	Nathan Leonard	(e. 1771; m. 1738)
	Joshua Phillips	(e. 1783; rem. 1790)
	Deacon Jonathan Brewster	(e. 1789; d. 1800) <sup>1</sup>

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1. Formerly a deacon at Preston, Ct.



Rufus Marsh	(e. 1789; rem. 1802)
Ezra Leonard	(e. 1800)
Ebenezer Niles	(e. 1801; d. 1806)
Asahel Prentice	(e. 1801; d. 1806)

The records are owned and held by the church.

CR I - "Records of the Church of Christ in Worthington." 1771-1838.

CR I COPY COOKE - Rollin H. Cooke, "Worthington, Mass., Record of Cong. Church." Copy made in 1901. Cooke Collection, Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield.

CR II - "Vol. 2: Records of the First Congregational Church in Worthington Commencing Jan'y 1. A.D. 1839." 1839-1870.

CR III - "Jan. 1st, 1871. Church organized 1771. Records from Jan. 1st. 1871, to Jan. 1st. 1907."

PR I - "First Parish in Worthington, 1865-1897. Vol. I."

Miscellaneous records: Parish Assessors Rate Book, 1865-1877.

#### WRENTHAM, Original Congregational Church (C).

The church was gathered on Apr. 13, 1692, and the Congregational Society incorporated in 1799. The society dissolved after the incorporation of the church in 1903.

A separation from the church occurred ca. 1747, but there is no conclusive evidence that a Separate Congregational Church was gathered here. See C. C. Goen, Revivalism and Separatism in New England, 1740-1800 (New Haven and London, 1962), p. 318, where Elihu Daggett is suggested as having been pastor to the Separatists.

Ministers:	Samuel Mann	(ord. 1692; d. 1719)
	Henry Messenger	(ord. 1719; d. 1750)
	Joseph Bean	(ord. 1750; d. 1784)
	David Avery	(inst. 1786; dism. 1794; d. 1818)
	Elisha Fiske	(ord. 1799; d. 1851)



Ruling elders: none.

Deacons:	Samuel Fisher	(e. 1692 ?; d. 1704)
	Eleazar Metcalf	(e. 1700; dism. and rem. 1738)
	Samuel Fisher	(e. 1705; d. 1722)
	John Guild	(e. 1707; d. 1723)
	Theodore Mann	(e. 1722; d. 1761)
	Thomas Thurston	(e. 1728; d. 1755)
	Francis Nicholson	(e. 1744; d. 1753)
	Hezekiah Hawes	(e. 1744; d. 1777)
	Richard Fisher	(e. 1755; d. 1777)
	Ezra Blake	(e. 1755; d. 1775) <sup>1</sup>
	Thomas Mann	(e. 1772; d. 1807) <sup>1</sup>
	Jacob Pond	(e. 1775; d. 1815) <sup>1</sup>
	David Holbrook	(e. 1777; d. 1793)
	John Hall	(e. 1795; d. 1812)
	Philip Blake	(e. 1795; dism. and rem. 1801; d. 1836)
	Amos Walton	(e. 1795; dism. and rem. 1807; d. 1811)

The church records for 1692-1699 were destroyed by fire in the latter year.<sup>2</sup> The extant records until 1843 consist almost entirely of vital statistics; they are owned and held by the church.

VS I - "Records of the Church of Christ in Wrentham." Copy of vital statistics and church covenants, 1692, 1700-1786; original vital statistics, 1786-1843.

CR II - "Records of the Original Congregational Church in Wrentham, Mass. Nov. 1, 1843." 1843-1903.

SR I - Society Records, 1799-1844.

SR II - MISSING, Society Records, 1844-1893.

1. Deacons Mann and Pond, adherents of Rev. Avery, were discharged from the Wrentham diaconate in 1795, for long neglect of their duties and for promoting the gathering of a church at Norfolk. Later that year, their Wrentham deaconships were offered to them again, but whether they accepted or whether they remained at Norfolk is not known.

2. See Joseph Bean, A Sermon Delivered at Wrentham, October 26, 1773, On completing the first Century since the Town was incorporated (Boston, 1774).



SR III - "Congregational Record book 1893." 1893-1903.

Miscellaneous records: Church Treasurer's Accounts, 1822-1885; Society Treasurer's Accounts, 1799-1903; Society Trustees Records, 1800-1899; Meetinghouse Subscribers Records, 1834-1850.

See also Historical Sketch, Articles of Faith, and Covenants, of the Original Congregational Church, in Wrentham, Mass. With a Catalogue of Its Officers and Present Members. April 13, 1845 (Boston, 1845) (later editions Boston, 1875; n.p., 1908, entitled Manual); Melville A. Shafer, Historical Address Delivered at the Two Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Exercises of the Original Congregational Church, Wrentham, Massachusetts. April 15, 1917 (n.p., 1917); Minnie D. Bennett, The History of The Original Congregational Church of Wrentham (Foxboro, 1959).

WRENTHAM, North Church, Parish, Society (see Norfolk).

WRENTHAM, Second Church and Precinct (see Franklin).

YARMOUTH, First (C).

The church was gathered on Nov. 3, 1639, and incorporated in 1891.

Ministers:	Marmaduke Matthews	(sett. 1639-1643; d. 1683) <sup>1</sup>
	John Miller	(sett. 1647-1662; d. 1663)
	Thomas Thornton	(ord. 1667; res. 1692; rem. 1693; d. 1700/01)
	John Cotton	(ord. 1693; res. 1705; d. 1705/06)
	Daniel Greenleaf	(ord. 1708; disp. 1726; d. 1763)
	Thomas Smith	(ord. 1729; disp. 1754; d. 1788)
	Grindall Rawson	(inst. 1755; disp. 1760; d. 1794)
	Joseph Green, Jr.	(inst. 1762; d. 1768)
	Timothy Alden	(ord. 1769; d. 1828)

Ruling elders: due to the loss of the church's records, it is not known if the Yarmouth church employed such officers.

Deacons: similarly, only fragmentary knowledge of the Yarmouth diaconate is available.

Josiah Thacher	(d. 1702)
John Hall	(d. 1710)
Joseph Hall	(m. 1716; rem. 1727 ?; d. 1737)
Joseph Howes	(e. 1730; d. 1752)
Joseph Ryder	(e. 1730; d. 1753)
Shubael Taylor	(e. 1730)
Joseph Crosby	(d. 1757)
Daniel Hall	(m. 1761; d. 1768)
Josiah Hedge	(e. 1776)
Isaac Hamblin	(e. 1778, refused ?)
Isaac Hallett	(e. 1778)
Joseph White	(e. 1789; d. 1812)
Josiah Thacher	(e. 1801; d. 1809)
Joseph Hawes	(e. 1802)

The lack of records (except for admissions) antedating 1729 was remarked in that year. Only fragmentary records, consisting in vital statistics, could be located for the years 1729-present.

VS I - "Yarmouth Records." Admissions, 1678-1754. MS owned and held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

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1. In the face of several conflicting traditions, and lacking the records of the church, only approximations can be offered in dating the early pastorates.



CR I - MISSING, "A Book of Church Records for the West End of Yarmouth from Aprill 16th 1729 At which time Thomas Smith was ordained the pastor over it And Before which there is no written account to be obtained. - Hitherto the CC hath had no records." Extant in 1955 (see CR I PUB, below) but has since dropped from sight.

CR I PUB - Florence C. Howes, "Church Records of West Yarmouth, Mass.," NEHGR, CV (1951), 84-89, 202-203, 308-312, CVI (1952), 102, 182-185, CVII (1953), 37-39, 107-108, 288-292, CVIII (1954), 108-110, 205-210, 258-265, CIX (1955), 38-44. Baptisms only, 1729-1754, taken from CR I.

CR II - MISSING, "Book belonging to the congregational Church in Yarmouth, Massachusetts. This book contains a correct account of the proceedings of the Church, the baptisms, marriages, and deaths since the ordination of Mr. Nathaniel Cogswell." Extant in 1955 (see CR II PUB, below) but has since dropped from sight.

CR II PUB - Florence C. Howes, op. cit. Baptisms, 1737-1754, 1762-1862; marriages, 1822-1850; deaths, 1822-1843.

See also Timothy Alden, Jr., "Memorabilia of Yarmouth," MHSC, 1st Ser., V (1796, rep. 1835), 54-60; Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod (Boston, 1860-1862), 3 vols.; John W. Dodge, A History of the First Congregational Church, Yarmouth - Mass., in a Discourse Delivered Jan. 26th and Feb. 2d, 1873 (Yarmouth Port, 1873); Manual of the First Congregational Church, Yarmouth, Mass. (Yarmouth Port, 1873, rep. 1891); Charles F. Swift, History of Old Yarmouth (Yarmouth Port, 1834).

YARMOUTH, Separatist (C), extinct.

This church, sometimes designated Yarmouth's Second Church,<sup>1</sup> was gathered in 1640 by persons who had withdrawn from the

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1. Frederick L. Weis, The Colonial Clergy and The Colonial Churches of New England (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 280.

church of 1639. Its pastor, Joseph Hull, was excommunicated by the church at (West) Barnstable in 1641 for having broken communion with them, and in 1643 was forbidden by court action to exercise any ministry among the Separatists. Later in 1643, Hull and his wife were readmitted to fellowship at Barnstable, and it appears that the Separatist Church did not long outlive his change of heart.

Minister: Joseph Hull (sett. 1640-1643; d. 1665)

Due to the absence of any records, nothing is known of the lay personnel of this church.

See Frederick Freeman, The History of Cape Cod (Boston, 1860-1862), 3 vols., especially II, p. 256.

[YARMOUTH, West (C).]

Although the West Precinct in Yarmouth was incorporated in 1722, no church was gathered here until 1840, when the South Congregational Church (later called the West Yarmouth Congregational Church) came into being.

YARMOUTH, East Precinct (see Dennis).

YARMOUTH, Second Church (see Dennis).



YARMOUTH, South Church and Society (see Yarmouth, West).

YARMOUTH, West Parish and Church (see Yarmouth, First).